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The BG News January 26, 2006

Bowling Green State University

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ON THE ROAD:
Falcons will face Buffalo
in Mid-American
Conference meet on
Saturday; **PAGE 9**

BG NEWS

Bowling Green State University

A daily independent student press

THURSDAY

January 26,
2006

....

MOSTLY SUNNY
HIGH: 35 LOW: 28

www.bgnews.com
VOLUME 100 ISSUE 87

Witnesses can be vital in criminal situations

MAC students act as
example of how being
nearby can help out

By Lisa Halverstadt
REPORTER

Claire Keys, a sophomore at Miami University, had to be persuaded to go out on Thursday, Jan. 12, but the Oxford Police Department is grateful she did.

That night as Keys walked back to her apartment with a friend she helped solve an abduction and assault case.

When they came across an intoxicated freshman struggling to make it back to his dorm, the two helped him to his feet and asked where he lived. Moments later, two strangers approached them. They claimed to know the boy and helped him into their van.

But Keys and her friend became suspicious as they drove away, realizing that the vehicle didn't have a license plate and that it wasn't headed toward the freshman dorms.

"When the van came to the intersection at the bottom of the hill, it turned right. All freshman dorms are to the left and turning right leads out of Oxford and toward Indiana," Keys said.

Acting on a hunch, she called 911 and reported what she had seen.

BE A GOOD WITNESS

- Don't become hysterical or distraught.
- Make your presence known if it's a fairly minor crime — the perpetrator may run away.
- Be able to give a detailed physical description, noting the person's clothing and belongings.
- Write down every detail you can about the getaway vehicle, including the license plate number, body type and any identifying characteristics.
- Take note of which direction the vehicle is headed.
- Take precise notes on what you see as soon as possible.
- Answer these questions: Who? What? When? Where? How?
- Contact the police as soon as you can.
- Describe exactly what you saw the person do.

At 5:30 a.m., Keys was informed that her suspicions had been correct and the freshman had been found in Indiana robbed, beaten and thrown from a vehicle. Later, the two suspects were located and placed in custody.

Sgt. Jim Squance of the Oxford Police Department is grateful

WITNESS, PAGE 2

Landlord report card

Survey offers students insight about housing

By Kara Ohngren
REPORTER

The Office of Student Life will soon post an online survey where students will have the opportunity to view a report outlining how past residents rated their off-campus rental companies.

Planned to go live Feb. 1, with a direct link from the University home page, the survey will ask questions that pertain to residents' expectations versus what was reality. For instance:

- What was the condition of the interior of the property at time of move-in?
- Was the rental company timely when returning the security deposit?
- How was the maintenance and repair service?
- Was there sufficient privacy granted by the landlord?

The survey, presented in conjunction with Executive Vice President Linda Dobb, USG and GSS, also gives students the chance to report whether or not they would refer this rental company to a friend.

"The survey basically gives students a voice," said Valerie

Bullard, interim program coordinator for the office of student life. "We eventually hope to take all of the results and create one report that would reside on USG's Web site; this way, students can access the report and make better-informed decisions before they sign a lease for the next academic year."

The survey results are confidential, and individual responses will never be released.

"I know I would have looked at a survey like that before I moved into my apartment," said Carlynn Barnard, senior, resident at College Park Enclave.

"I had

never lived on my own before, my parents had always done those things, so I felt kind of lost when I was looking for a place to live."

Similar surveys are common practice and are becoming increasingly more frequent at larger universities, such as Ohio State and the University of Michigan.

according to Bullard. "I think at day end, those who keep their properties main-

SURVEY, PAGE 2



Student composer wins award

Grad student's hard
work pays off after
composing years ago

By Kristen Vasas
REPORTER

The Boston Metropolitan Wind Symphony's 2005 North American Composer Competition winner has been announced, and lucky for the

Bowling Green community, it's a local face.

Noah D. Taylor of Columbus, a second-year graduate student at the University and member of the Bowling Green Philharmonia and BGSU Symphonic Band was announced winner of the competition earlier this month.

"I was shocked!" Taylor says. "I was driving in my car and my phone rang. Someone else

picked it up because I was driving and told me that I had to take the call. So I pulled over and they told me the news. I was very happy."

Taylor composed his winning piece in 2002.

It was the second piece he composed for concert band, and it's now being performed in Kansas.

His piece was entered into

many other competitions before winning the MWS competition.

Taylor first came to Bowling Green in fall 2004 from Capital University where he majored in composition.

He said his first interest in music stemmed from the movies.

"I liked the music in films when I was little," he said.

COMPOSER, PAGE 2

Foreign language benefits careers

Studying a second
language could
become requirement

By Alison Kemp
REPORTER

As the world changes, knowledge of foreign languages is increasing in importance. Yet there is no foreign language requirement for high schoolers in the state of Ohio.

Individual school districts may have foreign language requirements, but the state only requires foreign language for a student to receive an honors diploma. Because of this, high schools are required to offer three years of one language or two years of two languages.

The lack of a foreign language requirement is because Ohio legislature has not required state-wide testing in this area, explained Deborah Robinson, the state's world language consultant.

At Bowling Green High School, principal Jeff Dever explained that even though BGHS does not have a foreign language requirement, he thinks learning another language and culture is very important.

"The country is changing. For certain jobs, you need it [foreign

language skills]," Dever said. "It is important to be bilingual."

BGHS offers French, German and Spanish, with a first year of courses available in the eighth grade. The highest enrollment is in Spanish, which is also the most common language to be taken in the state, according to Robinson.

High school is not the only factor that causes students to take Spanish.

"There is a false impression that it is easy to learn, and advisors ... automatically suggest it," said Tim Pogacar, the chair of the German, Russian, and East Asian Studies department at the University.

Career Choices

This generation has come to understand the importance of Spanish, said Federico Chalupa, chair of the Romance Languages department.

"Spanish adds to your marketability," he said, adding that it can be beneficial in business careers like accounting or advertising.

The best language to take depends on career choice, especially since English is not always used when translating. For

LANGUAGE, PAGE 2

STRUMMING



Jordan Flower BG News

PLAY'N: Senior Pat Watkins plays last night in the pub. He said he likes to play covers, but prefers to perform his own music.

Flu shots stressed after new outbreak

By Stephanie Spencer
REPORTER

A recent rise in influenza outbreaks are a cause for concern among University students, considering a 90 percent resistance to the drug most often prescribed.

"The issue is that we have a strain of influenza that is heading our way and it is resistant to the two medications that we are treating it with," said Student Health Services Director Glenn Egelman. "We have students living in tight quarters and it spreads very rapidly, we really need to get our students immunized."

And with the weather getting colder, and living spaces tighter, sickness may be inevitable this flu season. As of now, the best step toward wellness is prevention.

University Senior Louise Schiple is used to working closely with people on a day-to-day basis and is doing all

she can to avoid the typical symptoms such as stomach problems and overall body ache.

"I carry around anti-bacterial stuff with me on my key chain. I haven't gotten sick yet while everyone around me is hacking and coughing," she said. "I really didn't know how big of a deal this was, but I have always tried my best to stay well."

Luckily, there is now a working vaccine for the newest influenza that is currently available on campus at the Student Health Center. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention is urging people get the shot at the first signs of illness just to be safe. Panic as with the avian flu and fear of a pandemic is not necessary in these situations and should

**"I carry
around anti-
bacterial
stuff with
me on my
key chain.
I haven't
gotten sick
yet..."**

**LOUISE SCHIPLE,
SENIOR**

FLU SHOTS, PAGE 2

HEARING FOR ALITO: Judiciary Committee advances Samuel Alito to move on after enough support from both Democrats and Republicans. Alito may contribute to the most partisan victory in years; **PAGE 11**



FOUR-DAY FORECAST

The four-day forecast is taken
from weather.com

FRIDAY



Mostly
Sunny

High: 45°
Low: 35°

SATURDAY



Few
Showers

High: 43°
Low: 36°

SUNDAY



Showers

High: 45°
Low: 34°

MONDAY



Rain/
Snow

High: 36°
Low: 29°

FOR ALL THE NEWS VISIT WWW.BGNEWS.COM

New insurance provider to be chosen

Two companies are in the running for next year's mandatory student health care plan

By Bridget Tharp
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The competition is down to two health insurance companies, as to which will be named next year's provider for uninsured students.

Either the current provider,

Chickering, or a new option, Student Resources, will become the University's student health insurance provider next year.

When the Health Services Advisory Committee chooses a which provider to recommend to the president's office on Friday, the decision will impact all undergraduate students on campus. That's because all students will be required to show they have health insurance before registering for classes.

If a student has no health insurance, or if their insurance doesn't meet a list of yet to be determined standards; the student will be required to buy a plan through the University.

The current plan from Chickering costs students \$1,350, and includes abortion coverage, dental and vision coverage.

Both insurance companies have price estimates for a similar

version of this plan.

Chickering would drop their price to \$1,190 if chosen as the provider for a mandatory plan.

Student Resources has offered a rate at \$1,242 for a comparable plan.

All of these new price estimates are taken from a document that student committee member Maria Khoury gave members of Undergraduate Student Government at their meeting on Monday.

Student Health Services Director Dr. Glenn Egelman pushed for a required insurance plan last spring. Now Egelman and the committee are pushing both companies for a better, cheaper insurance plan for students.

Egelman said that the committee will bargain with both companies to increase prescription

INSURANCE, PAGE 7.

SERVICES OFFERED

COST FOR A PLAN LIKE CURRENT ONE

CUSTOMER SERVICE

INCREASED COST FOR BIRTH CONTROL

DECREASE COST IF NO ABORTION COVERAGE

DENTAL/ VISION PLAN

CHICKERING

\$1190

Team just for BGSU

+ \$9

- \$1

Included

STUDENT RESOURCES

\$1242

No exclusive representative

+ \$23

- \$11

\$72 Dental + \$29 Vision

\$101 more per year

BG NEWS

BRIEFING

BG woman busted for drug trafficking

Bowling Green woman was arrested for drug trafficking Tuesday night at about 7:30 p.m. Sandy K. Carrier, 40, was lodged in the Wood County Justice Center with no bond. Following a video arraignment yesterday morning, Carrier was released from the justice center on a personal recognizance bond. Carrier pleaded not guilty to an additional charge of drug abuse. A preliminary hearing has been set for Feb. 1 at 1 p.m.

BG NEWS

CORRECTIONS

Owner of stolen laptop inaccurate

One detail in the brief about the stolen laptops, pg. 3 of yesterday's paper, was inaccurate. Stephanie Boyle was the resident adviser on duty during the theft in MacDonald Hall. However, the laptop was not stolen from her room.

The stolen laptop belonged to Maureen Mason of McDonald East, and was taken from her unlocked dorm room.

All of the laptops were stolen from unlocked rooms, according to police reports.

Young composer inspired by movies

COMPOSER, FROM PAGE 1

Taylor practiced on his father's keyboard at a young age, until he finally started taking piano lessons.

Then in high school, he moved on to play the trombone and cello.

"Eventually, I was able to play other people's music by ear," Taylor said.

He now writes his own compositions and melodies.

Taylor also wrote another recognized composition, recently published by C. Allen Publications. The piece, "Concerto in D Minor for Marimba" was actually written for one of his friends.

"He called me and told me that he submitted the work to the company," Taylor said. "I got a letter from C. Allen Publications telling me that they were going to publish. That was exciting."

The composition, "Concerto in D Minor for Marimba" was Taylor's

"He called me and told me that he submitted the work to the company ... I got a letter from C. Allen Publications telling me that they were going to publish. That was exciting."

NOAH D. TAYLOR, GRAD STUDENT

first publication, and it's now selling copies.

Taylor is a member of the Symphonic Band at the University. The band is the top performing wind group on campus, made up mostly of music majors.

Taylor plays first-chair trombone under the direction of Bruce Moss, who says Taylor "has a great personality. He is friendly, easy to get along with and instantly likable."

After receiving the news about the composition, administration informed all music faculty on campus.

"It's a fine honor and recogni-

tion for him, and we are all proud of his dedication and this accomplishment," Moss said.

Taylor studies with Elaine Lillios, an assistant professor of composition at the University.

"They meet once a week to go over compositions he has written. Lillios said Taylor is "enjoyable to work with. He's an active participant in the musical community."

She said the Boston Metropolitan Wind Symphony commissions well known composers and was "excited to find out about his success. It's a great accomplishment."

Taylor has studied with her this

past year.

"I look forward to hearing his composition," Lillios said.

The Boston Metropolitan Wind Symphony is a 34-year-old, 65-member amateur wind ensemble based in Boston, which will perform Taylor's piece in May 2007.

This is the first year that the competition has been held.

Bob Piankian, vice president and publicity director of the Metropolitan Wind Symphony, said the competition was created to mold students into great composers.

"It is important to begin training students to become successful composers at any age, whether in high school or in college," he said.

Piankian said in order for a composition to be successful it must "capture the attention of the listener early on, finish in a timely manner and must be moving enough that you want to hear the piece over again, whether it is the hundredth time you've heard it or not."

Survey gives students vital rental advice

SURVEY, FROM PAGE 1

tained will show through the survey results," she said. "Any tool that gives students the best information that is available — before they have to make a decision that could be costly and impact them for a long time — is relevant and important."

Lisa Hipp, a sophomore, currently living in Kreisher-Compton, said she would appreciate a survey such as this one.

"I have already signed a lease for next year at Copper Beech and I think that it was a pretty informed decision, but I did ask a lot of questions and I talked to some of my friends who have lived there in the past," she said. "But a survey report would have made it a lot easier."

Second language new necessity

LANGUAGE, FROM PAGE 1

instance, the Chinese translate into French.

French is used for many diplomatic purposes, so it can be equally important if a student wants to be in that field.

"The University has supported language programs like Russian, Italian and Chinese when they have been cut [across the country]. BG is better in that regard," Pogacar said.

However, for Pogacar, adding courses in Arabic, Korean, or a South Asian language would be beneficial. Swahili is being taught this year for the first time.

A benefit of studying abroad is a proof of adaptability and versatility, according to Pogacar.

In addition, foreign languages can come in handy in a multitude of situations.

"It will serve you no matter what. World languages open up the world," Robinson said.

Funding

Dever said that BGHS is lucky to have the University so close, because if students want to take a language the high school does

not offer, they can take post-secondary classes. But even with the University, Dever wishes there were more offerings.

Because of a lack of money that prevents school districts from offering many language choices, President Bush is planning to ask for \$114 million in 2007, according to The Washington Post on January 6. This money would allow languages necessary to national security to be offered. These languages are Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi and Farsi.

Enrollment

At BGHS nearly 75 percent of students are enrolled in language programs.

At the University, Pogacar said that enrollment is way up. The University has the largest beginning Chinese program in 20 years.

Also the beginning Japanese class has been at capacity for three years. And Russian is up 100 percent from two years ago. German's beginning classes are the highest in 10 years.

Even though the number of students in these classes has

risen, the actual numbers are not that high. A full Japanese class has only 50 students.

"There are a greater variety of students taking language courses," Pogacar said. He explained that business, music and technology students are in these classes when the class is not needed.

Over 3000 students will take romance language classes this year, according to Chalupa.

This year, the University eliminated the High School Articulation Policy, which stated that students needed two years of the same language to attend. If students did not have this, it would need to be made up.

This policy was designed in the 1980s, but was outdated and eliminated a year ago, said Mark Gromko, vice provost for Academic Programs.

The language department on campus asked for a foreign language requirement to be reviewed. This would be a standalone requirement, similar to the requirement before.

Gromko said that it will be at the end of the spring semester before a decision is made.

Student aid a help

WITNESS, FROM PAGE 1

that Keys and her friend acted on their instincts.

"They helped us get a 45-minute jump start on it before we were even notified of the crime," he said.

But while Sgt. Squance is impressed by the fact that Keys and her friend noticed the van was going the wrong way, he said any student is capable of doing the same.

Last week, The BG News reported that three muggings had taken place in Bowling Green over the past month.

Reflecting on these recent events, Lt. Brad Biller of the Bowling Green Police Department said students should always be on guard.

"Report things that appear out of the ordinary as soon as possible," he said. "At least half of the crimes that we solve have to do with witness identifications so we rely on citizens to help us solve problems."

Lt. Biller said students who are afraid to get involved should call 911 and report the crime anonymously.

But students who, like Keys, choose to get directly involved should be aware that not all

witnesses will be treated the same way.

According to Michael Buerger, an associate professor of criminal justice at the University who bases his research on policing codes, the response and reaction to witnesses varies with the officer and the nature of the situation. He advises students to be patient with the police department.

"Do not assume that the dramatic depictions of television crime shows or cop movies bear any relation to reality and be patient — the officers will not always be in a position to explain everything to you," he said.

When in doubt about getting involved as a witness, Buerger said students should know that if they think something's not right, it probably isn't.

Keys urges her fellow college students facing similar conditions to act on these feelings to help squash what could be a potentially harmful situation.

"I think it's important to have confidence in ourselves [as students], to trust our instincts and to know that when we are present in unsettling situations," she said. "We are there for a reason."

Flu not to be taken lightly

FLU SHOTS, FROM PAGE 1

be avoided at all costs.

But some students may think that the best way to stay healthy is to continue eating right and exercising. Nick Porter is not worried about getting sick this winter and believes that he is already doing the best he can to stay healthy, including hydration and adequate rest. "Sickness is all mental, if I convince myself that I am not sick, chances are I will get over it faster," Porter said. "I still don't think that I will get sick."

So far, the United States loses 36,000 people to influenza a year and these numbers could go up if people ignore the warning signs, according to the CDC.

Still, Egelman assures that as long as the flu shot is given 48-72 hours after the first onset of symptoms it can be just as easily curable as the previous strains of the virus.

"We want to tell students that we still have shots at the Health Center," Egelman said. "Our medication has the effective drug that works and we're all set."

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- 330 N. Church: Lg three bedroom lower duplex. Off street parking. Front porch.
- 119 1/2 Clay: Three bdrm upper duplex. Close to downtown.
- 1002 E. Wooster: Three bdrm house across the street from campus. Zoned for more than 3 unrelated.

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DORM RESIDENTS DIDN'T START THE FIRE

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Residents in a University of Illinois dormitory were evacuated when a fire started Monday evening. The fire originated with a halogen lamp that was clipped to the underside of a bunk bed, but it is unclear how the lamp ignited. None of the residents were hurt, according to the fire department.

www.bgnews.com/campus

CAMPUS

Hit programs cheat the intelligent

Popular television shows offer no place for the smart girl

By Megan Yodzis
REPORTER

Popularity.

This is an interchangeable term that means something different for everyone. For one person it can mean being the best at everything — being the skinniest, having the best clothes, hair and makeup. For others it can mean just simply having the most friends.

With all these aspects that make up popularity for our generation of females, where does intelligence fit in? Obviously not on television, according to a presentation yesterday by Cindy Conaway about "Smart Girls on Television."

Ever since the days of Beverly Hills 90210 the smart girls haven't gotten much screen time, Conaway said. Now television shows focus on sex appeal, and who can get the hottest guy or girl.

In the presentation, part of the Brown Bag Luncheon series, Conaway focused on five popular shows from the past

decade. These included Beverly Hills 90210, Gilmore Girls, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Freaky and My So Called Life.

For each of the five shows she cited specific scenarios where the "smart girl" was left waiting in the cold while the male characters always favored the more "beautiful" girls.

In the popular television hit, Gilmore Girls, the main character Rory is seen as the smart, cute, girl-next door type in the beginning. Peer pressure and the influence of seeing other more popular girls began to change her.

In the show Rory drops out of Yale, her dream college, and no longer talks to her mother. Seeing an example such as this never showed the consequences of what happened because Rory decided to be a rebel. So girls who watch it will think it is okay to act like that.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer, another teen drama that was also a big hit, also had a character who progressively changed. A quiet, reserved girl on the show named Willow changed completely when she was introduced to Buffy.

Willow was picked on in high school and had a crush on a guy who saw her as merely a tutor. When she met Buffy, her life, along with her clothes, makeup and hair all began to change.

"When a character in any show meets a cool new friend, they stop acting like they did and begin to take on a different role," Conaway said.

Freshman Laura Robinson disagreed with Conaway on the subject of peer pressure and the part it plays in television.

"Not every girl who watches these shows wants to be exactly like the popular or beautiful girls shown," Robinson said.

The networks who run these programs choose to focus on sex appeal, and no longer academic work according to Conaway. They even pick the actress that will be best consumed, meaning girls will want to be them, and guys will have fantasies about them.

"Sex sells much better, and society understands this," Conaway said.

The smart girls have disappeared from the television shows all together, Conaway continued. Sex appeal and popularity is all you need to succeed in life, she said, and that is the message we are currently receiving from these television shows.

There are no shows that have role models for the disabled, heavy and "smart" girls to follow, Conaway said. This seems harsh and unfair to some people, but that is how America thinks.

"In real life these girls are not

just ignored, they have low self esteem and are not as driven," Conaway said.

Jason Kirby, a graduate assistant in the American Culture Studies Department, disagrees with Conaway.

"Television just does not seem to enter into the equation for me when I am making fun of someone," he said.

Teenage girls in our society are learning lessons from the shows they watch. Along with the ideas about body image versus grades, the lessons currently being learned include not hanging out in school and go out with the bad guy.

"Put away the books, and pull out the credit card," Conaway said.

There is a big difference in the girls on television and the girls in real life. Conaway believes it is wrong to alter images and ideas in television and hopes for an activist streak in television to come along with a more moral and ethical basis.

Merit aid program new to state

By Carol Biliczky
KRT

Joy Bronson had her sights set on the College of Wooster, a private liberal arts school on the cusp of Amish country.

But the \$30,000-some price tag was, well, pricey.

Then Wooster stepped forward with a reason to change her mind — 18,000 of them, in fact.

Like many students, Bronson had stumbled onto a way to dramatically lower the price she paid at a private college — merit aid, or scholarships.

"Essentially, it is a product of increasing competition," said David Miller, director of financial aid at the College of Wooster. "The challenge is that the state schools have the advantage of taxpayer support. Private schools have to compete."

The merit awards have become larger and more frequent, especially at private four-year colleges. In Ohio, private colleges typically cost \$25,000 to \$35,000 a year, as much as twice the cost of tax-supported education.

The awards may recognize the students' day-to-day accomplishments and test scores. Or the college may use the awards to "shape" a class with a different profile — more students from outside the region or more minorities, for instance.

In fact, while merit awards may be the smallest part of students' financial aid packages, they're a terrific marketing tool.

The awards coupled with other sources of aid can make a private college education even a possibility.

get a
life

calendar of events

8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Tech Info Table

The Technology Dept. will be displaying a go-cart to inform students about the Grand Prix of Bowling Green
Union Lobby

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Pizza Hut Coupon Sale
College Republicans will be selling

Pizza Hut coupons as a fundraiser for for military troops.
Union Lobby

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Jane Elliott Event Advertising.
Sponsored by UAO
Union Lobby

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Literacy Caravan Info, Sponsored

by Asian Communities United
Union Lobby

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Black Student Union Membership
Recruitment
Union Lobby

Noon - 5 p.m.

Healing a Campus 2006
Info, Sponsored by Kingdom

M'Powerment
Union Lobby

7 p.m.

"An Evening with Coach Herman Boone and Coach Bill Yoast"
Union Ballroom

8 p.m.

NFL Executive Panel Discussion
Olscamp 115



Participate in your University Yearbook!
If not for your own memories, for the memories of your classmates!

Call 372-8086 today to schedule your personal portrait session between 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 1 - 3rd in the Black Swamp Pub in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

This free portrait session is valued at \$20 and your picture will appear in the 2006 University Yearbook.

FINAL SESSION THIS YEAR SENIORS!

QUOTE/UNQUOTE

"I'm concerned that if we confirm him, this nominee will further erode the checks and balances that protected our constitutional rights for more than 200 years."

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt) on Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito
(associatedpress.com)

STAFF EDITORIAL

Reporting is key to prevention

It's highly unlikely that we'll ever really get along.

Victim-based crimes happen all the time, but most people think that crimes like abduction, assault and battery will never happen to them.

The odds are in favor of nothing really happening, too. Statistics show that most people won't be the victim of violent crimes in their lives.

We at The BG News couldn't be happier.

As great as that sounds, the

YOU DECIDE

Do you think interjecting yourself in the name of crime prevention is your concern? Send an e-mail to thenews@bgnews.com and tell us what you think, or post feedback on our Web site.

fact of the matter is that crime does happen, no matter what is censored in the media, what kind of prevention strategies are developed or how well funded

the local police department is. At the end of the day, bad things happen to good people.

As a community, students at the University have a responsibility to step up if something looks remotely suspicious.

Bowling Green is a relatively safe city, and the University has a low crime rate thanks to the partnership of the Bowling Green City Police Department and the Bowling Green State University Police Department. They work overtime through-

out the week to make sure that the University is safe and secure as possible.

But even if the police are doing all they can, they can't catch everything. Some things are going to slip under the radar no matter how hard they try.

This is where the role of the University community and the city's residents comes into play.

It is the reparability of the entire community to react and respond to things that they might see. Helping the police

department is essential to making sure that certain crimes happen as infrequently as possible.

People (students and permanent residents alike) cannot be afraid to act on their instincts. Instincts are all an individual has in certain situations. If something looks even remotely suspicious, reacting on instincts can — in extreme situations — be a matter of life and death.

The recent muggings have put a damper on the University's serene image. It's frustrating

to think that there are people at the University who have the ability to put our entire security in jeopardy.

But by doing our part, we can make sure that the muggings remain a thing of the past. We're all a part of a community whose well-being is determined by the cohesiveness of all its members. By looking out for one another and reporting things when we see them, we can make sure that we no longer have to make safety our number-one concern.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Browns are legendary NFL franchise

As a alumnus of BGSU, and a lifelong Cleveland Browns fan, I had to challenge assistant opinion editor D.J. Johnson's comment, "With an 11-21 postseason record since 1950, the Cleveland Browns are arguably the worst football team in American history."

To the contrary, despite their recent expansion woes and losing seasons, a case could be made that the Browns are one of the better franchises in football history.

Younger observers of the NFL have bought into the hype of the "Super Bowl" as the NFL championship game and place less significance on championships played prior to that label being used to market the game. Since 1946 the Cleveland Browns have played 57 seasons of football and have made the playoffs 28 times. They've played in 13 title games and won eight (8) championships, four in the old All-American Football Conference (AAFC), where their record was a dominant 47-4-3 (.870), and four in the NFL. They've won 20 division and conference titles over that span.

Despite their recent woes since returning to the NFL as an expansion team in 1999, during which time they've won only 36 games in seven seasons, the Browns' combined regular season and post-season winning record and percentage in the NFL alone is still a very respectable 415-352-10 (.541). That's averaging just under 9 wins per season for 53 years! The Browns still have the edge over the Pittsburgh Steelers in head-to-head match-ups with a

record of 55-51-0.

He is correct in noting that Browns fans are loyal, long-suffering and passionate. We are also knowledgeable football fans who await with eager anticipation a return to glory of one the NFL's storied franchises. He's also correct in predicting that Cleveland's Super Bowl party will make all others pale in comparison.

On my 50th birthday, I couldn't let Johnson's slanderous comment toward my favorite team stand. And from a fellow Falcon as well, shame on you.

BILL PECIC
ALUMNUS
Bill.Pecic@sas.com

Scholarship agency would foster dreams

Excellence in mind and excellence in character are what defines a Rhodes Scholar. Studying in Oxford University with a community of mentors and fellow scholars deeply inspired me to dream for the Rhodes Scholarship.

When I looked up to the requirements for the qualified students, I learned I cannot meet them. Why not? Because I am not a citizen of the listed countries in Rhodes scholarship.

Dreams no more. I want to inform, inspire and involve the students, faculty and administrators of Bowling Green State University to create a separate committee or office that will actively popularize the pursuit of applications for scholarships and fellowships like the Rhodes, Marshall, Churchill, Truman and a lot more. The committee or office will collectively motivate and engage the University com-

munity in encouraging student applicants.

Planning and preparing ahead of time will give competitive advantage to the University students. University students have plenty of potential and uncanny abilities. A committee or office that will assist and focus in building the students academic, leadership and community service credentials will facilitate and enhance the chances of winning those prestigious and competitive awards.

Creating a committee or office for competitive awards will contribute to the various initiatives in pursuit of University's aspiration to become the premier learning community in Ohio and one of the best in the United States. It will also showcase the defining characters of the University — inquiry, engagement and achievement. It will embody the genuine passion for inquiry, the continuous flow of ideas and the pursuit of excellence of the University. It will reinforce what is stipulated in the 2005-2006 Student Handbook that BGSU is a university of success. It will strongly manifest the hallmark of BGSU that students come first.

Establishing a committee or office for competitive awards is a rare opportunity for President Sidney A. Ribeau. His upcoming February 3, 2006 State of the University Address is a venue to present a policy setting forth the mechanism for creation of the said agency.

"Dream Big" is the first thing I saw in the brochure of the Admissions office and the last thing I will always keep in my heart. As the advertisement of one airline says, the nice thing about dreams is that they are possible.

JAKE M. GALLARDO
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
jakemg@bgnet.bgsu.edu

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

In light of their new merger, what's the best show on UPN or WB?



KAITLIN SCHMIDT
JUNIOR, EDUCATION
"Charmed."



KATE GUZIK
FRESHMAN, PUBLIC RELATIONS
"Beauty and the Geek. I watch it religiously."



MEG PETERS
SENIOR, PUBLIC RELATIONS
"Whatever happened to 'Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place?'"



JULIO MATA
JUNIOR, POLITICAL SCIENCE
"Jeez, I didn't know either channel still existed."

Laundry etiquette must be followed



ERIK CRIBLEY
Opinion Columnist

Thirty-five minutes.

Last Sunday night, it took me 35 minutes to move my laundry from the washer to the dryer. Perhaps there is some alternate universe, some bizarro world, where 35 minutes is considered an acceptable amount of time to accomplish this menial task, but we do not live in that world. I don't want to live in that world. And so help me God, no one is going to make me live in that world.

Admittedly, I knew from past experience that Sunday was a busy day for laundry. That is why I usually do my laundry at midnight on Saturdays, when every student except me is out having a life. However, this past weekend, schedule conflicts (I got drunk) prevented me from doing my laundry at the usual, hassle-free time. I expected the normal delays that one would associate with doing laundry at peak hours.

However, what I encountered was excessive and inconsiderate, and borders on what the ACLU would define as "torture."

I walked down to the laundry room exactly 39 minutes after I had put my clothes in the washer. I timed it as such because that is how long the washer takes and I did not want to waste any of my precious time, nor the time of others. Upon entering the laundry room I found two dryers that, despite the fact that their time had expired, were still full of clothes. All the other dryers had a considerable amount of time left. I knew I was in for a wait. Another gentlemen was waiting as well. I don't know how long he was there before I showed up, but judging from the look on his face I could only assume that it was roughly 1,000 years, give or take a century.

I am a reasonable man, and can understand someone being a few minutes late in this scenario. You could lose track of time, or just be bad at math. But as the minutes ticked by and I realized that the owners of the clothes in question clearly lacked either a clock or any shred of human decency, reason became kind of a non-issue, taking a backseat to unmerciful rage. In an attempt to calm myself down I counted the machines — unfortunately realizing that there were seven washers and only six dryers made matters worse.

Eventually, an unapologetic girl entered the room. She opened the doors of both the expired dryers and removed her clothes from one, then left. The gentleman who had been waiting longer than me loaded his clothes into the now empty machine. As this occurred a series of questions ran through my mind. Why did she open both doors? Is she using both machines? Why did she just empty one? Where did this woman go?

With only one time-expired-but-occupied dryer remaining, I assumed the worst was behind me. The anger I felt upon realizing that this girl found it necessary to use a separate dryer to wash three pairs of jeans was subsided by the fact that my long wait would soon be over. How wrong I was. She returned, but instead of removing her jeans from the dryer she put another quarter in. She saw me waiting and put another quarter in.

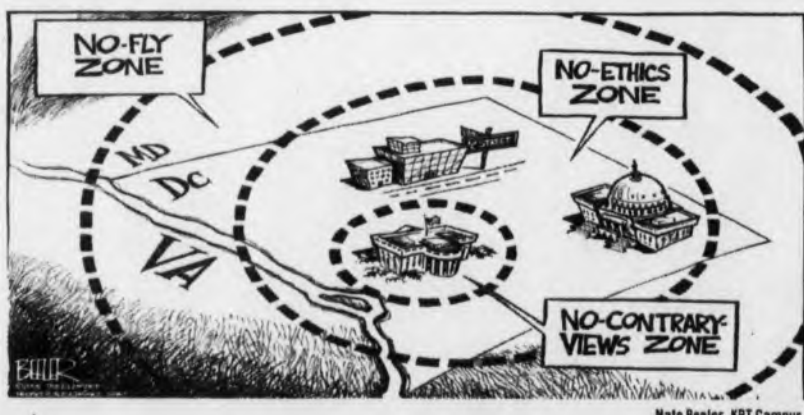
At this point I looked at the time remaining on the other dryers and realized that it would be at least another 13 minutes, likely longer if the users of the other machines were as prompt as this girl. I didn't know what to do, but homicide was considered — justifiable homicide, given the circumstances.

Fortunately, the next person to empty a machine was at least on time. But he was also using two machines. According to my roommate the usage of two machines is a common practice. This cannot be allowed to continue.

It is my duty both as an opinion columnist and a compassionate human being to do whatever necessary to ensure that no one else will be made to suffer as I have. Therefore I'm laying down some Laundry Room Etiquette Ground Rules:

1. One machine per person. There are seven washers, six dryers and eight hundred students.
 2. Be on time. Washers take 39 minutes. Dryers take 15 minutes per 25 cents. Set an alarm if necessary.
 3. If your time is up and people are waiting, you're done. I don't care how wet your panties are. Deal with it.
- Three rules. It's not that hard. That's seven less than God makes you follow. Just be considerate so we can all live as one big happy family and I won't have to burn the building down.

Send comments to Erik at ecrible@bgsu.edu



Nate Deiler KRT Campus

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The BG News Submission Policy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are to be fewer than 300 words. These are usually in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS are longer pieces between 600 and 800 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

POLICIES

Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS as an attachment to thenews@bgnews.com with the subject line marked "Letter to the Editor" or "Guest Column." Only e-mailed letters and columns will be considered for printing. All letters are subject to review for length and clarity before printing.

Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the views of The BG News.

Scholastic Success within the Greek Community



Congratulations to the Greeks who
made the Fall 2005 Dean's List and
who upheld our founding value of Scholarship.



Alpha Phi Omega

Fraternity

Jessica Beck
Marci Cancic
Kristel Clarke
Michelle Foster
Anna Godden
John Grecol
Katherine Hartman
Lauren Hooley
Maura Horton
Sara Johns
Stephen Kovach
Kenneth Kozlosky
Christine Loh
Sarah Manley
Kelsey Manor
Kathryn McDonald
Elyssa Northey
Natalie Olson
Jon Patterson
Katherine Ritz
Bethany Robinson
Ann Roos
Emily Ruckel
Ashley Ryan
Megan Sankey
Kathleen Weber
Jessica Wurster
Lauren Ziegler

Alpha Sigma Phi

Fraternity

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Douglas Benecke
William DeClercq
Steven Dutton
Nicholas Gill
Jonathan Meyer
Scott Pogros
Rocco Sciarabba
Aaron Shumaker
John Toth
Eric Crumrine
Andrew Fasano
Glenn McBride
Joseph Schoch
John Turner

Delta Chi

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Michael Buzzelli
Matthew DeStephen
Timothy Georges
Rick Irick
Shane Lewis
Christopher Prokes
Leo Svoboda
Alex Wright
Anthony Zinni
Artie Starnier
Sean Pierson

Delta Sigma Pi

Fraternity

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Kevin Green

Delta Tau Delta

Fraternity

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Nathan Eigher

Craig Mack

Matthew Achmoody

Steven Pascoe

Christopher Pletcher

Anthony Rampulla

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Fraternity

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Joseph Litzinger
Matthew Milosovic
Jason Thompson
Eric Heffinger
Jordan Sebastian

Kappa Sigma

Fraternity

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Anthony Chu
Christopher Gordon
Jonathan Halverstadt
Philip Hippley

Lambda Chi Alpha

Fraternity

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Luke Nordlie
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Jeffrey Davis
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Phi Gamma Delta

Fraternity

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Jeffrey Fichtelman
Matthew Walters

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Francis Major
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Kyle Pechak
Christopher Reynolds
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Jeffrey Swiech

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Cameron Tanner

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Fraternity

Ryan McDermott

Sigma Nu

Fraternity

Adam Carroll
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Krishna Mutgi

Sigma Phi Epsilon

Fraternity

Daniel Konoponski

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Kristin Cantrell
Kristel Clarke
Kaitlin Dahleen
Jamie Finelli
Ashley Harper
Katy Hoffman
Ashley Howard
Kathleen Kelly
Kristen Keobel
Kersten Koloff
Christen Marcu
Emily Mowry
Michelle Papenfuss
Sarah Pechaitis
Lindsay Roadruck
Andrea Schmitz
Jennifer Steelman
Shelley Vandervort
Vanessa Vitale
Lindsey Walborn
Cami Webster
Aubri Zimpler
Kara Butler
Amy Conroy
Katie Lackman
Molly O'Riordon
Lauren Venzel

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Emily Draper
Jennifer Fletcher
Misty Hamblin
Abby Sarks
Rebecca Sponseller
Jessica Staley
Angela Weis
Emily Wirth
Staci Joseph
Alana Price
Summer Dietrich

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Sorority, Inc.

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Patricia Perry
Chanel Griffith
Leah Shaw

Alpha Omicron Pi

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Courtney Fitch
Megan Harrah
Tara Madden
Elizabeth Marotti
Amber Nelson

Meredith Sayre

Abby Yoder

Briana Ambrosic

Michelle Doyle

Stefanie Menoff

Stefanie Miller

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Katie Ganss
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Lindsey Kane
Sarah Messinger
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Erin Platzer
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Theodora Rousos
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Kerri Zamler
Amanda Rigganbach
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Heidi Bollin
Jessica Dill
Kara Emglefield
Megan Houghtaling
Jacqueline Kovach
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Molly Murley
Jacqueline Nagy
Jessica Schafer
Carrie Smith
Amanda Apathzky
Jessica Battiatto
Melissa Dennison
Kelly Eagle
Denise Meyer
Anna Prinic
Jordan Prugar

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Colleen Burke
Fay Coleman
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Shannon Shoemaker
Korry Swy
Erin Wells
Ashley Lumm

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Sorority

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Tammy Sudhoff
Kari Thomas
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Lynne Koerner
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Jenna Kocin
Emily Porter
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Samantha Stanford
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Sorority

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Amy Carpenter
Jennifer Cribbs
Rebecca Dabbelt

Jenna Gable

Erika Hatvani

Alexis Kallas

Rachel Lewis

Samantha Massau

Morgan Matthey

Kerrigan Michael

Allison Opelt

Rachel Pazdziorko

Jill Philpot

Brittany Raburn

Kara Schmit

April Stenger

Andrea Whitmer

Phi Mu

Sorority

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Melissa Fletcher
Abigail Jones
Megan DeWolf
Jodi Dues
Tiffany Gorby
Sarah Hamen
Lisa Kahle
Heather Kovacs
Monica Kristek
Michelle Perkins
Kimberly Peters
Caitlin Spontelli
Andrea Vantaggi

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Sorority

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Elizabeth Fraley
Nessa Livingston
Nicole Grisak
Kasie Kimball
Brittany Meadows
Mallory Nauss
Kristen Radke
Amy Seymore

Sigma Kappa

Sorority

Pamela Copper
Molly Farmer
Kathleen Fish
Heather Gillin
Kaleena Headlee
Christine Loy
Ashley Stevens

Sigma Lambda Gamma

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Yvette Castro

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Congratulations to the Greek Community
for achieving an all Greek GPA
above all the Undergraduate GPA!

BGSU Residence Life - Greek Affairs Mission

Building the premiere Fraternity and Sorority Community in North America utilizing continuous improvement that provides the following:

1. A quality undergraduate residential experience for the housed fraternities & sororities
2. A complete quality undergraduate fraternity and sorority experience that builds community among all Greeks and that emphasizes our founding principles Leadership, Scholarship, Brotherhood/Sisterhood, and Community Service

Greek
BGSU
Office of Residence Life

Political bias hurts education



DANIEL
LIPIAN

Opinion Columnist

Recently, an English 101 professor at Warren County Community College in New Jersey was in the middle of his normal day of classes when he had an epiphany.

He figured that on this particular day, he should skip his usual English lecture so that he could engage his students in a far more important discussion.

So instead of discussing relevant topics such as the use of direct object pronouns, this brilliant man decided to offer up a commentary on the logistics of basic military etiquette, or in layman's terms, he decided to bash the military.

In short, he told his students that "true peace will only come when American soldiers turn their guns on their superior officers."

Sadly, this is not merely an isolated incident. Comments like these are being heard on college campuses all across America.

It has become a standard operating procedure for certain professors to interject political commentary into their daily teachings ... even though these opinions are totally unrelated to the material that they should be teaching.

A large number of professors have reduced themselves to nothing more than smear merchants who practice the obfuscation of truth in favor of forwarding their outmoded ideology.

For many, the job of teaching has devolved from a noble profession of educating America's youth to one of indoctrination and misinformation.

Take Ward Churchill.

Churchill teaches ethnic studies at the University of Colorado.

On September 11, he decided that it would be a good idea to comment on why America was attacked that day.

In an essay, Churchill remarked that, "The most that can honestly be said of those involved on Sept. 11 is that they [the terrorists] finally responded in kind to some of what this country has dispensed to their people as a

matter of course."

Of the innocent citizens who died in the Twin Towers, Mr. Churchill had very little to say: "Well, really, let's get a grip, here shall we? True enough, they were civilians of a sort. But innocent? Gimme a break."

Churchill claimed that all American's were "little Eichmanns," thereby comparing victims of the attacks to Adolf Eichmann, the architect of the Holocaust who orchestrated the murdering of six million Jews.

These types of remarks, aside from being asinine, are dangerous.

While ideologues like Ward Churchill and the "trigger happy" English teacher cer-

tainly have a right to believe whatever they want to believe, it frightens me to think that there are people like this teaching in our universities, passing such hateful and misleading information onto other college students.

Perhaps worse is the fact that we are paying their salaries through our

taxes, thereby giving them a blank check to spout off these absurdities without recourse.

These hateful professors need to just be quiet and do their job, which is to teach. Period.

Students do not pay for classes to hear about their professor's political views.

According to a recent study by Neil Nevitte of the University of Toronto, college faculties lean further to the left than even the most cynical conservatives could possibly imagine.

The study cites that 72 percent of those teaching at American universities and colleges are liberal and only 15 percent are conservative.

These liberal leanings translate into liberal political beliefs as well.

84 percent of those surveyed are strongly or somewhat in favor of abortion rights, 67 percent think homosexuality is acceptable, 88 percent want more environmental protection "even if it raises prices or costs jobs," and 65 percent want the government to ensure full employment.

This puts the professors to the left of the Democratic Party.

Stanley Rothman, a political science professor at Smith College, sees these findings as evidence of "possible dis-

crimination" against conservatives in all branches of the college tree.

I want to be abundantly clear that despite all of this evidence, I do not believe that every liberal teacher practices bias in the classroom just like I do not necessarily think that all conservative professors are squeaky clean in this regard.

Bias, regardless of what form it comes in, whether it be liberal or conservative bias, should absolutely not be tolerated.

And while there is no doubt that many of America's college professors conduct themselves properly in the workplace and do an admirable job of teaching, anyone who denies that this type of bias exists needs to get out of the ivory tower and come back down to earth.

Other universities across the country are finally accepting this hard truth and responding.

Last week, the Alumni of UCLA adopted a new program entitled "Exposing UCLA's Radical Professors."

This initiative offers students \$100 in cash to attend classes and provide information on instructors who are abusing their power.

According to the alumni group, the program is aiming at faculty who are "actively proselytizing their extreme views in the classroom, whether or not the commentary is relevant to the class topic."

Other schools are finally beginning to act, so what can students do about this?

If you witness any of your teachers engaging in political discussions, either liberal or conservative, that are not relevant to course material then you should take action immediately.

Go to an Undergraduate Student Government representative and alert them of the problem or, if that does not work, then go see the dean.

Do not be afraid to fight this issue because the more we stand up against these undue burdens to our education, the better college will be for us and for all Americans.

We must battle this injustice because if teachers cannot be held accountable to the students then they become accountable to nobody.

As a result, the entire college system becomes a pointless aberration.

But, they have to be accountable to us, right?

I mean after all, we do pay their salaries.

Send comments to Dan at dliplan@bgsu.edu

American Idol provides talent



TAYLOR
COPELAND

Opinion Column

As I was walking through my residence hall Tuesday night, one fact became very evident.

American Idol is back. Stepping out into the hallway was like entering a theater equipped with surround sound.

I could hear off-key singing along with the familiar voices of Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell emanating from almost every room.

Practically my entire floor was tuned into the show.

And apparently they're not alone.

According to Nielsen Media Research, more than 35 million other people watched the two-hour debut of Idol's fifth season, which began earlier last week.

The season premiere was the biggest yet for the hit reality TV show.

There's no doubt that the show is entertaining, but what about American Idol makes it so appealing?

Idol's first few weeks of shows simply chronicle the audition process. During this segment of the show, those without talent are often the most fun to watch.

Hundreds audition, confident that they will make the first cut, only to have their dreams destroyed because they can't carry a tune. Others employ gimmicks in hopes of scoring TV time.

Whatever the case, let's face it. Who doesn't like to see other Americans make fools of themselves on national television?

But of course, there are

talented individuals as well. Without them, there would be no show.

So, entertainment purposes aside, does American Idol really have anything worthwhile to offer the music industry?

"It's my guilty pleasure," freshman Jaimie Goebel said of American Idol. "I find the show amusing, but there are some really good people on it, too."

And if you think about it, American Idol does present the music industry with some quality talent. Unlike some other reality TV shows, such as Survivor, Big Brother, Real World and Dancing with the Stars, American Idol actually is beneficial.

Even if Ruben Studdard has faded into oblivion and the name Fantasia is nothing to you but a 1940 Walt Disney movie title, American Idol has had a couple success stories.

Kelly Clarkson, the original Idol, and most recent Idol Carrie Underwood seem to have made an impact on the American music scene.

Even some second, third and fourth place finalists such as Clay Aiken, Kimberley Locke and Josh Gracin have released hit singles.

In fact, American Idol could be the answer to the recent trend of singers who lack musical talent.

Britney Spears was only the beginning.

There's no telling who would be kicked off first if Lindsey Lohan, Hillary Duff, Ashlee Simpson and the guys from Milli Vanilli somehow all made it to Idol's top five.

With an increasing amount

of artists who can't sing entering the market today, it's good to see a program designed to discover actual talent.

It should take more than being voluptuous and having a pretty face, money and famous sibling to make it in the music business.

Strong vocals should be a requirement. Not optional.

Today, nearly anyone who is famous and wants to be a singer can be.

It's as if some celebrities just get bored in the movie industry and wake up one day saying, "I've always wanted to be a singer... I think I will."

I'm tired of seeing so many actress-slash-singers.

Usually these individuals are "slashes" for a reason; they have more talent in one area than in the other. And typically the superior area is the former.

While it may be difficult to prevent actresses from crossing over into the music industry, at least now American Idol's audition process can weed out some others who merely think they can sing.

Are the show's finalists the best of the best? Not always, but sometimes they are better than several current singers.

Above all, American Idol strives to find people whose musical abilities are truly deserving of attention.

So even if you're not caught up in Idol-mania, don't just dismiss the show for your typical reality program. It could have more impact on America than you may think.

Copeland, out.

Send comments to Taylor at tcopel@bgsu.edu



CARRIE
UNDERWOOD
SINGER



Louis Coppola KRT Campus

UPN and WB merger could be worst media pair in history



D.J.
JOHNSON

Asst. Opinion Editor

Yoko Ono and John Lennon.

Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown.

Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley.

Peanut butter and syrup. Wait ... Michael Jackson or anyone else for that matter.

Yes, there have been some pairings in history that have been successful, but it's the least successful pairings that people tend to remember.

You know, the ones where failure seemed imminent right off the bat.

Luckily, time hasn't let us down.

UPN and WB (two networks that are barely a decade old) have recently announced that they are going to merge into a joint network called CW.

I can't help but laugh. I do apologize to both Warner Brothers Entertainment and

CBS (who own WB and UPN, respectively) for my rudeness, but what kind of reaction can you really expect?

Both UPN and WB have lost their respective owners up to one billion dollars.

In not so many words, both have really sucked.

In all fairness, the two new networks were fighting over the same demographic, aiming their programs toward young adults between 18 and 34.

And maybe under the umbrella of just one name, each individual network will be able to keep their hit shows and scrap half of the losing programs they keep on their roster.

But "hit" shows are all relative, friends.

According to USA Today, "not one of WB's or UPN's prime-time shows ranks among the top 100 for the 2005-2006 season."

Ouch.

WB's best shows (the now-defunct "7th Heaven," "Gilmore Girls," and "Smallville") placed on the Nielsen TV rankings at 110th place, 112th place and 120th

place, respectively.

UPN's best shows (Golden Globe nominee "Everybody Hates Chris," "Friday Night Smackdown!" and "Girlfriends") placed on the same ranking at 117th place, 126th place and 133rd place respectively.

Ultimately, no one is watching either channel.

But UPN and Warner Brothers Entertainment genuinely believe that by joining forces, they will create some sort of network that is going to appeal to the masses and pull them out of debt.

As I see it, adding mud to mud doesn't give you clear water. It actually just gives you mud.

The two media corporations need to look at their respective situations and act accordingly. Both of the companies can look at this current situation, cut their losses and make better decisions.

CBS is the home of "Survivor," David Letterman and "Young and the Restless," the latter being the most-watched soap opera for well over two decades. CBS's success is accentuated by being the home to different large-scale

sporting events, most notably the Super Bowl.

CBS has also received a lot of criticism about their programming, mainly the fact that they target to a much older demographic and have very little material that would even come close to entertaining the younger masses.

Whereas they don't necessarily have any reason to do so, picking up some of their UPN-based programming might help boost their ratings past their main competition.

Professional wrestling, for example, usually smokes its popularity and has been doing so for about two decades.

Acknowledging this feat by permanently placing this programming on Friday nights — a slot that usually doesn't bring in high ratings — would blow away any type of competition at that time.

Eighties superstars like Macho Man Randy Savage might not be around, but he's been replaced by the Spirit Crew and the Heart Throbs and equally as entertaining entities that the country could defi-

nately get back into.

UPN also has a high number of sitcoms with African-American families.

There aren't too many CBS programs that have minority themes, so adding to the diversity of CBS's programming could do wonders.

Doing this quick and fast would backfire against CBS, but slowly adding more diversity into CBS's programming would help pull in viewers that CBS hasn't attracted in the past.

WB doesn't have any big friends that it can meld into, so their situation is significantly different.

Warner Brothers Entertainment's only real subsidiary company that's watched often is the Cartoon Network, usually offered on basic cable. Fox, NBC, CBS and ABC have had no problems keeping a significant distance between them and their teenager-based competitor.

Whereas WB has more to gain from this merger, my guess is that the pair will exist for another decade before CW has racked up

a significant amount of debt.

Basically, the WB was a bad investment by Warner Brothers Entertainment.

If Warner Brothers Entertainment was going to make a big move, selling the rights to some of their key shows to bigger networks could have been more worthwhile. Yes, they would not have seen the benefits of these shows, but they wouldn't have to worry about debt in the near future.

In this new scenario, CBS and Warner brothers will own 50 percent of CW.

But I can't help but think that CBS made a hasty decision in pairing itself with a network that is doing so much worse than it probably has done in its entire history.

Yes, UPN and WB might not have to worry about each other any more, but at the end of the day, but it looks like the pair might be headed into the red.

Together.

Send comments to D.J. at davidj@bgsu.edu

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A DEATH WITH DIGNITY?

By Lynn Uwanawich
U-WIRE



Inmate on death row
for killing cellmate
STATE, PAGE 1

Supreme Court stops
impending execution
NATION, PAGE 1

Speculation of Calif.
possibly becoming the
second state to adopt such a
law has shifted in action orga-

Eighty-five percent of the people who took their lives would leave a suicide note and state the reason for their life-ending decision included losing autonomy over their lives.

"Generally from the students I spoke with, a lot told me to stick with Chickering because of the stability of the company," Khoury said.



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BIG SPENDERS MARKETING GAY MARRIAGE

COLUMBUS — Supporters and opponents of a ballot initiative to ban gay marriage in Ohio spent nearly \$2.2 million in efforts to reach voters, a new spending analysis shows. The group Citizens for Community Values spent \$1.18 million promoting Issue 1, making it the biggest spender in the gay marriage debate.

STATE

www.bgnews.com/state

College might be tougher to get into

Taft looks to raise graduation standards for high schoolers

By Andrew Welsh-Huggins
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS — High school students would face a tough new set of graduation requirements and four-year colleges would no longer offer make-up classes under a sweeping education proposal by Gov. Bob Taft in his last State of the State speech.

Under the program, which Taft dubbed "the Ohio Core," students would have to take four years of math and English, three years of science and social studies and two years of a foreign language beginning in the fall of 2007.

Completing those courses would be required to be admitted to one of Ohio's four-year public colleges or universities, and any remedial work would have to be done at a two-year college.

"For too many, a high school diploma is not a passport to success, but rather a broken promise," Taft said. "The world has raised the bar, and so we must act to raise the bar for high school graduation."

Lawmakers who provided only minimal increases in education funding in the current two-year budget backed the concept while saying details would have to be worked out.

"We're not willing to send blank checks," House Speaker Jon Husted said. "We are willing to make targeted investments that are going to benefit the education of all Ohioans."

Taft has had mixed results getting the GOP-controlled Legislature to adopt proposals from his eight annual addresses. This time, he is asking lawmakers to back his ideas in an election year when he has rock bottom approval ratings and the stigma of being the first Ohio governor charged with a crime.

The ethics charges for failing

to report gifts he received are part of a government corruption scandal that has Democrats hoping they can end 12 years of GOP control in the state.

Taft called his education proposal a major change but didn't say how much it might cost.

"Change is difficult, but we fail to act at our own peril," Taft said.

Ohio's top school official said the idea would require more spending and Ohioans must be persuaded the money should be spent.

"We hope the citizens of Ohio understand that children are our most precious resources and that we have a moral responsibility to prepare them for the future," state schools Superintendent Susan Tave Zelman said.

Democrats in the minority in the House and Senate said the idea looked good on paper but lacked money to hire the new teachers it would require.



Kiichiro Sato AP Photo

IT'S OVER: Gov. Bob Taft delivers his last State of the State speech yesterday in the House of Representatives chamber at the Ohio Statehouse.

Inmate on death row for killing cellmate

COLUMBUS (AP) — The Ohio Supreme Court yesterday upheld the conviction and death sentence of an inmate who strangled his cellmate and beat his head on the floor and then laughed and yelled while paramedics tried to revive him.

Christopher Newton, 36, killed Jason Brewer, 27, as they shared a cell at the Mansfield Correctional Institution in 2001.

"Newton has demonstrated that he is a menace to the life, health and safety of others even when he is protective custody in a maximum-security prison," the court said in a 7-0 ruling written by Justice Paul Pfeiffer.

Brewer was serving a three- to 10-year sentence for attempted burglary while Newton was in prison for eight- to 15-year sentence for having a weapon illegally, attempted burglary and attempted escape.

Brewer died a few hours after the attack at Ohio State University Medical Center. Newton told authorities he made a rope and later cut a strip from his prison jumpsuit to strangle Brewer when the rope broke. He also stomped on Newton's head, throat and chest.

Newton admitted to the killing, and said he had never met or heard of Brewer until they had been put together in the cell.

New coal-fired plant environmentally safe

Essentially pollution free plant may create more jobs for Ohio

COLUMBUS — Ohio is among about 20 states in the running for a \$1 billion coal-fired plant that would be virtually pollution free.

"This is a hugely important project," Jo Ann Davidson, a former Ohio House speaker helped

lead the state's effort, said of the FutureGen project, which comes with \$700 million in federal funds and \$250 million from power and coal companies.

Sites in eight Ohio counties have been identified as possible locations for the plant, which would turn coal into a hydrogen-rich gas that would then be used to produce electricity for about 275,000 single family homes. The project would create more

than 1,000 construction jobs and as many as 200 jobs at the plant.

Davidson said Texas and Illinois are Ohio's biggest rivals for the plant. Texas is evaluating nine sites and Illinois is looking at spots in 17 counties.

Unlike the country's 600 coal-burning power plants, this one would take away the pollutants that create smog, acid rain and airborne soot. Carbon dioxide would be injected thousands of

feet underground to test whether it will remain in a deep aquifer, coal seam or an oil field.

An alliance of eight power and coal-mining companies will decide where the plant will go. It is led by an executive from Columbus-based American Electric Power, the nation's largest power generator.

Mike Mudd, acting chief executive of FutureGen Alliance and AEP's manager of technol-

ogy development, said the group is coming up with an impartial method of judging sites.

"We have been very careful not to be perceived as having any alignment with any of the state groups," Mudd said. "We are doing this not for the sake of the business deal, but to advance the technologies."

A list of finalists will be picked this year with the winner announced next year.

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THE BG NEWS

Falcons top CMU on road, now 6-0 in MAC

Liz Honegger hit a 3-pointer with 9.2 seconds left, breaking a tie game and giving BGSU a 57-52 win at Central Michigan last night.

Carin Horne led the Falcons (15-2, 6-0) with 14 points and teammate Kate Achter added 10 points and five assists.

BG's Lindsey Goldsberry hit two free throws to seal the deal.



CAVALIERS: JAMES SCORES 38 IN WIN OVER ATLANTA. PAGE 10

SPORTS

THURSDAY
January 26,
2006
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www.bgnews.com/sports
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Falcons back on road for conference meet



MOVING FORWARD: Jennifer Betts, shown swimming against Akron last Saturday, will compete in a Mid-American Conference meet at Buffalo this Saturday along with her Falcon teammates.

Buff hopes Buffalo will prepare her team for MAC Championships

By Heather Riedel
REPORTER

As the Mid-American Conference Championships creep closer, the Bowling Green State University swimming and diving team will take one last road trip to compete in a league dual meet in New York.

On Saturday, the Falcons will take on the University at Buffalo in hopes of bringing home a win after tying Akron last weekend.

"It would be a great win for us," said BG coach Keri Buff. "It would build our confidence going into the MACs and going into the Miami meet."

Buff added the Bulls are a "solid" team and they will be great competition for BG in preparation for league meet. The Falcons are looking to keep their eye on one of the Bulls' top swimmers, junior Kahla Walkinshaw. Walkinshaw, who swims in the butterfly event, will be matched up well against Falcon senior Dana Schultz.

"[Walkinshaw] is kind of their superstar," Buff said. "She swims the fly. Dana [Schultz] will give her a great race."

Schultz placed second in last season's meet against Buffalo in the 100-yard butterfly. But it is a new year with new goals. Schultz, who has had a remarkable season so far, is ranked third and fourth in the 100 and 200-yard butterfly events in school history and has been a big competitor in her event.

Teammate Alisha Yee has also been a tremendous competitor this season. She took home two individual first place finishes last weekend in the 100 and 200-yard

James and 'O' from same mold

Old school and new school met Tuesday at Quicken Loans Arena

By Tom Withers
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — LeBron James slipped inside the semicircle of onlookers and finally met the man whose name he first learned in record books and whose all-around game set the standard for NBA excellence.

"Oscar Robertson," said the Big O, extending his powerful right hand.

"LeBron James," the Cavaliers star responded in a sweet, though somewhat awkward public moment.

On Tuesday night, old school and new school were finally in session together as Robertson, Mr. Triple-Double himself, spent a few minutes with James, the 21-year-old who could one day equal Robertson's astounding feat of averaging a triple-double — at least 10 points, rebounds and assists per game — for an entire season.

In 1961-62, his second season as a pro, Robertson averaged 30.8 points, 12.5 rebounds and 11.4 assists. But back then, before 3-second violations or 3-pointers were the norm, numbers were, well, just numbers.

So for nearly two decades, Robertson's statistical achievement went unrecognized.

"I didn't really know it then," Robertson said, "and the NBA didn't until they thought what Magic [Johnson] did was such a great story they went back in the archives and found out, 'Oh, by the way, there was a guy named Oscar Robertson that did it long before he did.' I guess it surprised them."

These days, "triple-double" is part of the pro hoops lexicon, a phrase flung around casually by media, players and fans as if it has been around since James

Naismith nailed up his peach baskets.

But as the 67-year-old Robertson points out, it's now much easier to record a triple-double than when he played.

"Every time you score it's an assist now," said Robertson, who had 181 career triple-doubles. "But when I played you had to be going to the basket on the dribble. So it's easy to get the assists, but the rebounds are the toughest things to get night in and night out."

Robertson made it all look easy. James, often compared to the 12-time All-Star, does, too.

As a rookie, James joined Robertson and Michael Jordan as the only players to average 25 points, five rebounds and five assists. Last season, he became the fourth — Robertson, Jordan and John Havlicek are the others — to average 25 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

His scoring is up this season, but so is the Cavaliers' win total.

Before watching James easily get 23 points, eight assists and seven rebounds Tuesday night, Robertson only had seen him play once before in person.

"All-star game," said the gray-haired and physically fit Robertson. "Those things are a joke."

Robertson's tone, though, is serious when speaking of James' on-court skills and immense potential.

"LeBron is a great talent, no doubt about that," he said. "But a great talent needs a supporting cast. The last guy to average 50 points was Wilt Chamberlain (1961-62), but they only won 20-some games that year."

Actually, the Philadelphia Warriors won 49. But Robertson's observation is noted in an era when multimillionaire players take more pride in their personal statistics and successes than

ROBERTSON, PAGE 10

BUFFALO, PAGE 10

Artest sent to Sacramento a day after trade seemed unlikely

Move ends troubled career in Indiana for disgruntled Artest

By Michael Marot
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Ron Artest is no longer the Indiana Pacers' problem.

The volatile forward was traded yesterday to the Sacramento Kings for former all-star Peja Stojakovic, more than a month after demanding a trade and one day after the deal seemingly fell apart.

The deal ends a turmoil-filled career for Artest in Indiana, and eliminates the biggest distraction the Pacers faced this season.

"We're gamblers," Kings co-owner Gavin Maloof said before Sacramento played the Knicks in New York on last night. "So we're going to take a chance on him."

Artest first requested a trade in December, after it was rumored that he would be dealt to the Kings for Stojakovic. The Pacers deactivated Artest after his trade demand.

"This was the trade that more or less led to Ronnie saying he wanted to be traded," Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh said at a news conference. "He heard it on the air and that was not true. And we really didn't think there was any hope to do the deal back then."

And when it appeared Artest would, indeed, be heading to the Kings on Tuesday, he reportedly balked at playing in Sacramento.

"We don't know that," Walsh said. "We just know that some-

thing happened. It got called off. And we talked to Sacramento again this morning and realized there could be a deal."

Artest changed his mind after meeting with Walsh at Conseco Fieldhouse earlier yesterday.

Indiana spent several weeks searching for the right deal, nearly sending Artest to the Los Angeles Clippers for Corey Maggette before reviving talks with the Kings in recent days.

This trade has actually been rumored for three years, with the Kings thought to have needed Artest's defense as much as the Pacers needed Stojakovic's offense.

Artest is due to make \$7.15 million next season and \$7.8 million in 2007-08, with an \$8.45 million player option for 2008-09. His defensive presence and infamous instability should be an intriguing fit with the Kings, whose franchise makeover now has a more defensive look.

Stojakovic also could be the outside shooter Indiana has needed since Reggie Miller retired after last season.

"Obviously, we're very happy about getting a player of [Stojakovic's] caliber," Pacers president Larry Bird said in a statement. "He's one of the best shooters in the league and we definitely feel he can help us right away."

But it also rids the Pacers of a player who has made the inexplicable seem routine.

He was suspended for the final 73 games and the playoffs last season after charging into the

stands and fighting with Detroit Pistons fans in one of the nastiest sports brawls in U.S. history.

During his career in Indiana, Artest also was disciplined for kicking a ball into the stands, throwing a television camera and twice jawed with Miami Heat coach Pat Riley during games.

His latest indiscretion, demanding a trade in an interview with an Indianapolis newspaper, was too much for the Pacers to handle.

Since coming to Indiana in February 2002, a trade-deadline deal with the Chicago Bulls, Artest has been one of the Pacers' top players — when he has stayed on the court.

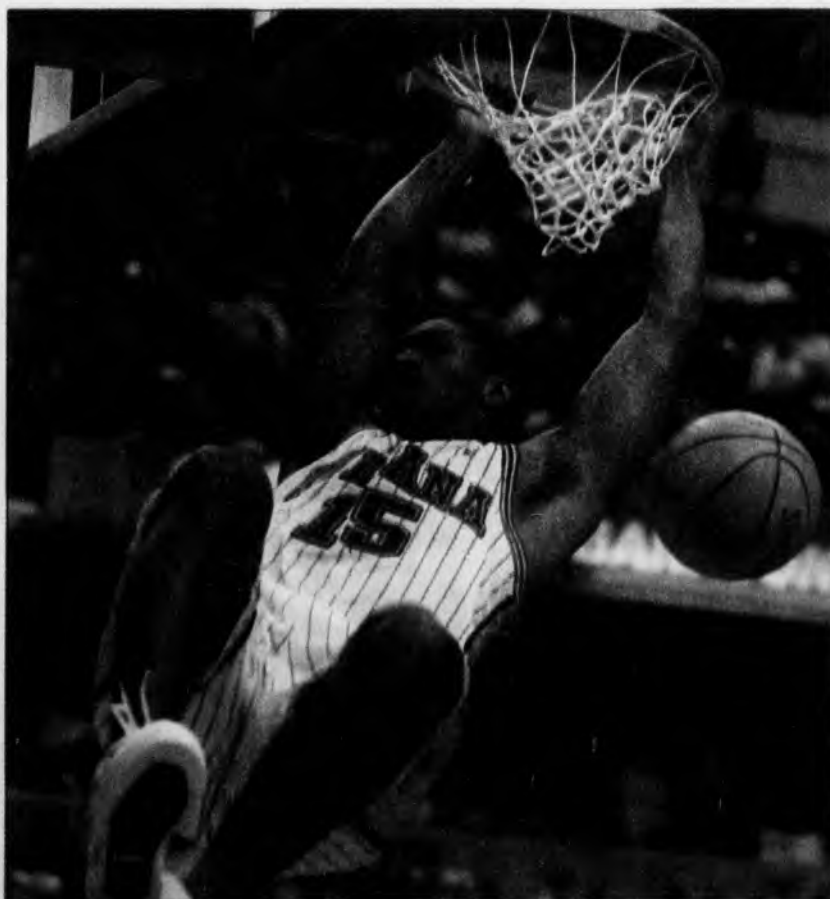
He earned an all-star berth and recognition as the NBA's defensive player of the year in 2003-04. He led the league in steals and averaged 19.4 points per game this season before his trade request and subsequent deactivation.

But Stojakovic gives Indiana a new start.

He was the Kings' longest-tenured player, joining the club as an unheralded 21-year-old rookie in 1998 and becoming a three-time all-star. But he is expected to void the final season of his contract to become a free agent this summer, and Kings president of basketball operations Geoff Petrie decided to get something in return for his most successful draft pick.

Sacramento made its fourth major trade in 13 months, following deals involving Chris Webber, Bobby Jackson and Doug Christie.

ARTEST, PAGE 10



MOVING ON: Ron Artest was traded yesterday from Indiana to the Kings. The former all-star has not played since Indiana put him on the inactive list last month following a trade request made by Artest. Indiana and Sacramento nearly made the same trade Tuesday but the deal fell through.

Darron Cummings AP Photo

TEN QUESTIONS

Sefcik wishes to sing and hang out at beach

Name: Amanda Sefcik
Sport: Track
Event: Sprints/Jumps
Year: RS Sophomore
Hometown: Northfield, Ohio

What has been your most favorite experience(s) while you've been at BG SU?
Amanda: Meeting new people.

What is your dream job, and why?
AS: Working in a hospital doing cardiac rehab. I want to help people.

Who is your pick to win the Super Bowl?
AS: Definitely not the Steelers.

What is your most embarrassing moment?
AS: Flying over my handle bars in front of all my friends. I have the scar to prove it!

What is an interesting thing about you?
AS: My uncle coached for the Atlanta Falcons.

What is your ideal Spring Break destination?
AS: Cancun!

Who is your dream date, and why?
AS: Johnny Knoxville. He's so funny!

Last movie you saw:
AS: King Kong.

The OC, or Laguna Beach:
AS: The OC for sure.

If you could have 15 minutes of fame, what would you be doing, and why?
AS: I would attain my 15 minutes of fame by singing, because I suck!

Oscar offers assist

ROBERTSON, FROM PAGE 9

their team's record.

Robertson couldn't have imagined keeping stats.

"I didn't know they (triple-doubles) existed, to be honest," he said. "I was just playing basketball. I think what's happening now, is that everything is a stat. You have a stat on turnover ratios, which really means nothing."

During the few moments Robertson and James spent together outside the Cavaliers' locker room, it became clear they share more than the knack for stuffing box scores full of big, round numbers.

When asked about Kobe Bryant's recent 81-point performance, James' reply made Robertson smile like a proud grandfather.

"It's unbelievable," James said, "but the key part about it is that he got the win."

Robertson later referred to the kid's point while making one of his own.

"As LeBron said, what really matters is whether you win the game or not," Robertson said. "It sounds good to hear that so and so is averaging 20 rebounds a game, but did he get them when it counts?"

"I played with a lot of guys who got a lot of rebounds when it didn't matter."

With Robertson sitting courtside, James flirted with his seventh career triple-double before easing back in Cleveland's 96-66 win. Earlier, while rubbing shoulders with the Hall of Famer, James was asked if he could match Robertson's triple-double season.

"Uh," James said. "I don't think so."

Robertson cut him off.

"I can answer that. You can do it," he said. "But the real key are the rebounds, that's what's going to get you the triple-double."

"You're right," James nodded. Yet another assist for the Big O.

Broussard and Tribe agree to 1-year deal

By Tom Withers
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — First baseman Ben Broussard avoided salary arbitration yesterday by agreeing to terms on a 1-year, \$2.5 million contract with the Cleveland Indians.

Broussard is expected to platoon this season with recently signed free agent Eduardo Perez. Last year, Broussard made \$365,000 while batting .255 with a career-high 19 homers and 68 RBIs in 142 games.

He had initially asked for \$2.6 million in arbitration and had been offered \$2.2 million.

The Indians were somewhat disappointed in the 29-year-old's production in 2005, one season after Broussard drove in 82 runs — the most RBIs by any AL player with less than 425 at-bats.

Broussard's base salary will be \$2,487,500 this season and he can earn an additional \$25,000 each for 525 and 550

plate appearances, although it's unlikely he'll get anywhere near that number if he's not playing every day.

Indians general manager Mark Shapiro said Perez, 36, is likely to play some in the outfield and get about 350 at-bats.

Meanwhile, Shapiro remained quiet yesterday about the proposed three-team trade that would have sent outfielder Coco Crisp to the Boston Red Sox for reliever Guillermo Mota and third base prospect Andy Marte.

The deal appeared to dissolve Tuesday when the Indians had concerns about Mota's right shoulder.

As part of the trade, the Indians would also ship left-handed reliever Arthur Rhodes to Philadelphia for outfielder Jason Michaels.

Crisp, a fan favorite in Cleveland, batted .300 with 16 homers, 69 RBIs and stole 15 bases for the Indians.

Cavs top Atlanta for second straight win

By George Henry
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — LeBron James didn't appreciate a fan's attempt to disrupt his concentration with a laser pointer.

So he took out his frustration on the bumbling Atlanta Hawks.

"Those things can damage your eyes something bad," James said. "I was standing at the foul line in the fourth quarter when the ref noticed a red dot near my forehead. That's pretty serious."

James had 38 points, nine rebounds and six assists as the Cleveland Cavaliers won their third straight game, 106-97 last night.

Police they couldn't find anyone shining a laser pointer from the end zone near the Hawks' bench.

James added that this game was the first in his three-year career that a fan used a laser light against him.

"They're like those things guys used in high school," James said. "I hope it's the last we see of them."

The Cavaliers were winning 94-93 with 3:17 left when Donyell Marshall hit a 3-pointer that started a 12-4 run that ended the game. Marshall, who buried another 3 with 58.1 seconds remaining for a 104-95 lead, also complained to the officiating crew about the laser light as he stood at the foul line with 9:49 remaining.

"They were more when we



HAWK LANDING: Atlanta's Tyronn Lue passes the ball to a teammate during the Hawks' 106-97 loss to Cleveland last night.

were shooting our free throws," Marshall said. "I couldn't really tell when I was shooting my jump shots."

James, the NBA's third-leading scorer, hit 15 of 20 free-throw attempts, compared to 16 of 22 for the Hawks. He scored on consecutive possessions early in the fourth, the second of which came on a 3-pointer from the top of the key for a 92-86 lead.

"Coming off a back-to-back,

with a big win... against Indiana, it would have been easy for us to not bring intensity," James said. "Early on, our team didn't have intensity. I saw that and I had to pretty much take over matters. I've been able to take my team on my back."

Joe Johnson scored 24 points and Al Harrington added 22 for the Hawks, who have lost seven of their last nine.

Johnson committed three turnovers in the fourth quar-

ter. Harrington had one in the third.

"In a close game like this, you're battling and you can't afford turnovers and allow them to score," Harrington said. "When they were shooting free throws, we were taking jump shots. It doesn't work that way. You've got to attack the basket."

Atlanta's biggest lead, 30-18, came on two free throws by Zaza Pachulia late in the first, but the Hawks couldn't hold a 73-63 advantage after Harrington hit a long jumper at the 4:54 mark of the third and a 21-footer 31 seconds later.

"In the third quarter, everything was smooth," Atlanta coach Mike Woodson said. "We were moving the basketball. We got good shots and we came out of the quarter up by six. Then in the fourth quarter, we got complacent and wouldn't move the basketball, and that resulted in some key turnovers that they capitalized on. That was the difference in the game."

Cavs forward Drew Gooden finished with 14 rebounds.

Cleveland outscored Atlanta 23-8 on fast-break points, including a layup by James that cut the Hawks' lead to 82-80 with 10:25 left in the game.

James had two of his three steals in the fourth.

Each of Marshall's four field goals was a 3-pointer. He attempted six shots beyond the arc, eight overall.

Artest playing again

ARTEST, FROM PAGE 9

Stojakovic seemed likely to earn a hefty contract when he became a free agent after declining his \$8.2 million option for next season, perhaps getting the maximum deal. Instead, this season has been dismal for the Serbian star.

He is averaging just 16.5 points per game, his lowest total since his second NBA season, while making just 40.3 percent of his shots — lowest since his rookie year — along

with 5.3 rebounds and 2.2 assists.

He has been bothered by various injuries and missed eight games this season.

The Pacers have struggled without Artest. They were 10-6 in games he played and are 11-14 without him, losing five of their last six — including a 30-point loss to Cleveland on Tuesday night. Jermaine O'Neal has hinted that players might be concerned about possibly getting traded along with Artest, and it could be affecting their performance.

Yee shows steadiness

BUFFALO, FROM PAGE 9

backstroke events.

"[Yee] has been really consistent as far as stepping up for us all year, so I think she'll do great," Buff said.

Along with just simply beating Buffalo, Buff and her team will be concentrating on polishing up their basic skills and quickening their times in the water this

weekend.

"As we keep getting closer and closer to the end of the year, we just want to keep getting faster so that we set ourselves up well for MACs," Buff said. "And so that is pretty much what we're looking for is best of the season times. Which would be the times not including the Ohio State Invitational because we rested for that."

GOOD WITH DETAILS?

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CLINTON ATTACKS CITIZEN SPYING POLICIES

WASHINGTON — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton called President Bush's explanations for eavesdropping on domestic conversations without warrants "strange" and "far-fetched" yesterday in blistering criticism ahead of the president's State of the Union address.

NATION

www.bgnews.com/nation

ALITO HEARING | APPROACHING THE CONFIRMATION

Alito nears the 'final leg'

Judiciary committee advances nomination along partisan lines

By Jesse J. Holland
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito took a victory lap in the Senate yesterday, accepting congratulations from Republican leaders as lawmakers moved toward confirming him in a largely party-line vote.

A few hours after the final confirmation debate began, Alito met with Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Majority Whip Mitch McConnell and Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter in a U.S. Capitol room that directly faces the neighboring Supreme Court.

The conservative judge shook their hands and joked with the Republican leaders and thanked them for their efforts as senators debated his nomination on the Senate floor. Alito, who had met privately with more than 80 senators since his October nomination, thanked "all of the senators who supported me and were kind enough to meet with me."

The New Jersey jurist was chosen by President Bush to be the replacement for retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

"I call on the United States Senate to put partisanship aside and give Judge Alito the up-or-down vote he deserves," Bush said at the White House, "and confirm him as the next associate justice of the Supreme Court."

Alito has enough support from 51 Republicans and Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska to



CONGRATULATIONS, YOUR HONOR: Judge Samuel Alito, center, shakes hands with Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., on Capitol Hill yesterday, as the Senate debates Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court.

assure his confirmation.

With the rest of the chamber's Democrats showing little interest in a filibuster, the 100-member Senate is expected to make it official with a majority vote before Bush's State of the Union on Jan. 31.

"We're on the final leg," Frist, R-Tenn., assured Alito before congratulating the 55-year-old judge from the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Judiciary Committee advanced Alito's nomination Tuesday on a party-line vote, with all the Republicans voting for him and all the Democrats voting against him. He is not the first Supreme Court justice to get a

partisan vote from the committee. Justice Louis Brandeis, who served on the court from 1916-41, also was voted out of committee along party lines.

"I'm certainly in good company, if that's the case," Alito said.

Alito also may be on his way to the most partisan Senate victory for a Supreme Court nominee in years. The closest vote margin for a Supreme Court justice in modern history is Justice Clarence Thomas' 52-48 victory in 1991. In that vote, 11 Democrats broke with their party and voted for President George H.W. Bush's nominee.

The Democratic caucus split on conservative Chief Justice John Roberts last year, with 22

voting for him and 22 against. But liberals are working to get a large opposition vote to score points against Bush and rally their supporters for November's midterm elections.

Twenty-two Democrats already have announced they are voting against Alito, with Sens. Jack Reed of Rhode Island and Hillary Clinton of New York making their decisions public yesterday.

They argue that putting Alito on the court in place of O'Connor, who was a swing vote on many contentious social issues including abortion, affirmative action and the death penalty, would put people's rights and liberties in danger.

Supreme Court stops impending execution

Man will argue that capital punishment is cruel and unusual

By Gina Holland
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Hours after staying the execution of a Florida inmate who was already strapped to a gurney, the Supreme Court said yesterday it would hear his arguments that the drug cocktail used in lethal injections can cause excruciating pain.

Lethal injections are used in most states that have capital punishment, and there's been a growing dispute over the way they are carried out.

The Supreme Court has never found a specific form of execution to be cruel and unusual punishment, and the latest case from Florida does not give court members that opportunity. The justices could, however, spell out what options are available to inmates with last-minute challenges to the way they will be put to death.

Florida inmate Clarence Hill, who filed the appeal, had been strapped to a gurney with intravenous lines running into his arms Tuesday night when he won a temporary Supreme Court stay, Hill's lawyer said. The stay was signed by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy.

The full court announced yesterday that the stay would be

permanent until justices decide whether an appeals court was wrong to prevent Hill from challenging the lethal injection method.

The argument is expected April 26, with a ruling before July.

"What a fantastic day. What a fantastic day," said Hill's attorney D. Todd Doss, who relayed the news to his client. "He was happy we get to go and present this to the U.S. Supreme Court."

Hill is on death row for killing a Pensacola, Fla., police officer after a bank robbery in 1982.

A Florida Department of Corrections spokeswoman said Hill would be moved off death watch, a cell block adjacent to the execution chamber, and back to death row.

Hill argues that the doses of three chemicals used in Florida executions — sodium pentothal, pancuronium bromide and potassium chloride — can cause pain. The first drug is a pain killer. The second one paralyzes the inmate and the third causes a fatal heart attack.

The final drug, potassium chloride, "burns intensely as it courses through the veins toward the heart," Doss wrote in the appeal. He said there is "a foreseeable risk of the gratuitous and unnecessary infliction of pain."

"He was happy we get to go and present this to the U.S. Supreme Court"

D. TODD DOSS, ATTORNEY

INMATES, PAGE 12

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Black smokers get more lung cancer

Study says it may be biological, or might also be habit-based

By Alicia Chang
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Blacks who smoke up to a pack a day are far more likely than whites who smoke similar amounts to develop lung cancer, suggesting genes may help explain the racial differences long seen in the disease, researchers say.

The largest study ever done on the subject also found that Hispanic and Asian smokers were less likely than black smokers to develop the disease — at least up to a point. The racial differences disappeared among heavy smokers, or those who puffed more than a pack and a half per day.

Doctors have long known that blacks are substantially more likely than whites to develop lung cancer and more likely to die from it. But the reasons for the disparity are unclear.

Some say the difference is a matter of genetics, while others contend smoking habits may play a role. For example, researchers say blacks tend to puff more deeply than whites, which may expose them to more carcinogens. Smoking rates are also slightly higher among blacks, but whites tend to smoke more cigarettes a day.

In the latest study — published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine — researchers compared the lung cancer risk among ethnic groups who smoked the same amount.

While the study did not address the possible reasons for the racial disparity, lead researcher Christopher Haiman, an assistant professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California, said the findings suggest genes may be one of the factors that explain the phenomenon.

The study involved more than 180,000 people, more than half of them minorities. Patients filled out questionnaires about their smoking habits, diet and other personal information.

Researchers from USC and the University of Hawaii analyzed lung cancer cases over an eight-year period. After adjusting for diet, education and other factors, the researchers found that whites who smoked up to a pack a day had a 43 percent to 55 percent lower risk of lung cancer than blacks who smoked the same amount. Hispanics and Japanese-Americans were 60 percent to 80 percent less likely than blacks to develop the disease.

The study found no difference in lung cancer risk among the various ethnic groups for those who smoked more than three packs a day.

Black, Hispanic and Japanese-American men who never smoked had higher risks of lung cancer than white men, but hardly any difference was seen in women in the same ethnic groups.

According to the American Lung Association, black men are 50 percent more likely to develop lung cancer and 36 percent more likely to die from the disease than white men.

Bush defends self

'You may not simply disregard the law,' say Democratic senators

By Nedra Pickler
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT MEADE, Md. — President Bush, defending the government's secret surveillance program, said yesterday that Americans should take Osama bin Laden seriously when he says he's going to attack again.

"When he says he's going to hurt the American people again, or try to, he means it," Bush told reporters after visiting the top-secret National Security Agency where the surveillance program is based. "I take it seriously, and the people of NSA take it seriously."

It was Bush's first comment about bin Laden since a tape was aired last week in which the al-Qaida leader warned that his fighters are preparing new attacks in the United States. Bin Laden offered the American people a truce, without specifying the conditions, but the White House said the United States would never negotiate with the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Bush's NSA visit was part of an aggressive administration effort to defend the surveillance program. Some experts and lawmakers from both parties have questioned whether it's legal for the government to listen to conversations in the United States without a warrant, which the administration could get through the Foreign



Evan Vucci AP Photo

SAFETY TALK: President Bush gestures during a statement at the National Security Agency yesterday in Fort Meade. Bush defended the actions of the agency, saying they protected Americans.

Intelligence Surveillance Court.

Four leading Democratic senators sent Bush a letter yesterday

saying although they support efforts to do everything possible within the law to combat terrorism, the NSA program is an "apparent violation of federal law."

"If you or officials in your administration believe that FISA, or any law, does not give you enough authority

to combat terrorism, you should propose changes in the law to Congress," wrote Sens. Harry Reid, Edward Kennedy, Richard Durbin and Russ Feingold. "You may not

"When he says he's going to hurt the American people again, or try to, he means it."

PRESIDENT BUSH

simply disregard the law."

Reporters traveling with the president were only allowed to see a few minutes of Bush's NSA tour, as he walked through the high-tech Threat Operations Center where intelligence experts monitor Internet traffic. He spoke to reporters from a podium set up in a hallway after completing his tour, but did not take any questions.

In keeping with the NSA's secrecy, reporters were required to leave their cell phones, pagers, laptops and wireless e-mail devices outside the complex. The White House negotiated so that the journalists could bring in cameras and video equipment, but they were allowed only to take photos of the president, not the exterior or interior of the facility itself.

Court will give death penalty a second look

INMATES, FROM PAGE 11

Hill's case allows the court to revisit a 2004 ruling in an Alabama death case, in which justices said David Larry Nelson could pursue a last-ditch claim that his death by lethal injection would be unconstitutionally cruel because of his damaged veins.

While Hill does not have damaged veins, his appeal cites medical studies about the cocktail of drugs used by Florida and other states.

"The court may be willing to broaden what can be considered as a civil rights claim," said Richard Dieter, executive director of the anti-capital punishment Death Penalty Information Center.

Dieter predicted that inmates facing executions in coming months will request delays, based on the Hill case.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who is retiring, wrote the 2004 decision, which said that although Nelson had exhausted his traditional appeals, he should not have been barred from pursuing the issue that came up in the final days before the scheduled execution.

O'Connor said in the unanimous 2004 ruling that the court was not going to "open the floodgates to all manner of method-of-execution challenges."

If appeals court Judge Samuel Alito is confirmed, as expected, to replace O'Connor, he will hear arguments and help decide the case. The case is Hill v. Florida, 05-8794.

Associated Press Writer Ron Word in Jacksonville contributed to this report.

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MIDEAST PEACEKEEPING AT RISK BY HAMAS

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Hamas fared better than expected in Palestinian elections yesterday, exit polls showed, raising the prospect that the ruling Fatah Party might be forced to form a coalition with the Islamic militant group that calls for Israel's destruction. The outcome could put Mideast peacekeeping at risk.

WORLD

www.bgnews.com/world

Socialists convene

Activists protest at World Social Forum

By Ian James
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARACAS, Venezuela — To the beat of drums and trilling whistles, thousands of activists from around the world showed their opposition to globalization and the Iraq war at the opening Tuesday of the World Social Forum backed by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

The six-day conference got under way in Caracas amid a light drizzle as activists paraded along wide avenues chanting "Socialism, yes! Imperialism, no!" About 80,000 people signed up to attend the forum, including tens of thousands from outside Venezuela, organizers said.

Cindy Sheehan, an American peace activist whose son was killed in Iraq, addressed a sea of people from a stage set up alongside a Venezuelan military base, starting a chant of "No to the war!"

"We need to bring our troops home immediately," Sheehan told the crowd. "We need to hold someone responsible for all the death and destruction in the world. We need to see George Bush and the rest of them tried for crimes against humanity."

Sheehan, a 48-year-old from Berkeley, Calif., gained international attention when she set up a protest camp near President Bush's ranch in Texas last year.

Organizers emphasized the event was not intended as a rally for Chavez, though the event was backed by funding from his government.

A red government truck led



AP Photo

SHOUTING IN THE STREETS: A demonstrator shouts in Caracas. The city is currently hosting the World Social Forum.

the march, and activists stepped aboard to shout slogans, many praising Chavez and shouting "Long live the revolution!"

Daniel Poppe, a 27-year-old German activist, said he believes in Chavez but felt uncomfortable about the truck and the slogans. "I don't like nationalist propaganda," said Poppe, who wore a red Che Guevara T-shirt.

The marchers included several Palestinians who held an Iraqi flag, and others who stretched out the wings of a giant dove made from white sheets. Several marchers from Syria chanted "Down, down U.S.A.!"

Others held banners focused on women's rights, indigenous rights or the environment.

The World Social Forum was first held in Brazil in 2001 and coincides with the market-

friendly World Economic Forum of political and business leaders, which begins Wednesday in Davos, Switzerland.

Those at the social forum, in contrast, traditionally criticize free trade and denounce the evils of capitalism.

Chavez, a fierce critic of the U.S., was expected to address activists on the sidelines, soaking up the spotlight as a leading radical voice of the Latin American left.

Canopies promoting Chavez's myriad social programs for the poor lined a major avenue in Caracas, while a dozen Venezuelan-made military jeeps were on display, along with a tractor made jointly by Iran and Venezuela.

PROTEST, PAGE 14

Human enhancement discussed at world forum

Scientists debate ethics of genetically enhancing drugs

By Paisley Dodds
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVOS, Switzerland — Memory enhancement, IQ boosters and drugs designed to attack genetic weaknesses may increase competition in the future and create a playing field that is far from equal, scientists at the World Economic Forum said yesterday.

But alongside such ethically complex issues, other forms of human enhancement — organ replacement, drug therapy and genetic mapping — could make the difference between life and death as well.

As science edges closer to allowing parents to choose the gender of their child and drugs are able to dull or enhance memories, some on the sidelines of the annual meeting at the Swiss Alpine ski resort of Davos questioned the economics of human enhancement and the ethics of progress.

"One of the big worries is over genetic discrimination," said Francis Collins, director of National Human Genome Research Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, and a leader on the Human Genome Project, a 13-year effort to identify the 20,000 to 25,000 genes in human DNA.

Within a decade, many common illnesses such as cancer are likely to be pinpointed according to their genetic variables, and some others that have been dif-

ficult to crack — such as autism and bipolar disorder — might be better understood, Collins said. Also on the horizon is technology that will allow people to know their genetic make-up for about \$1,000, he said.

"The question is if we do collect a lot of genetic material from people ... are you going to see those people then injured when their health provider or employer uses that information to take away opportunities," Collins told The Associated Press. "At the moment, in the United States particularly, those protections are not in place at a federal level."

Mapping the genome — or the blueprint of genetic instructions for making an organism — has been just one part of human enhancement, scientists say, but other technologies are making a leap from what was once considered science fiction to reality.

"You can imagine if this continues what we will see are advances that are much more targeted and more selective," Blanke told AP.

The advances raise a multitude of ethical questions, including whether there should be a worldwide body to establish guidelines and regulations.

Debate erupted last month after a South Korean veterinarian Hwang Woo-suk's claim that

he cloned 11 human embryos to produce stem cells turned out to be false, providing another set-back in the field of stem cell research.

The field has drawn controversy — particularly in the United States where opponents say the process destroys human life because the embryos are destroyed.

Some of the fears over human enhancement are rooted in the idea of eugenics, or using selective breeding to improve

the genetic quality of a species. Some of these programs were seen under the Nazis and even in North Carolina where about 7,600 people were sterilized between 1929 and 1974 — some of whom were sterilized against their will with labels of "feeble-mindedness."

Outside the big questions of whether humans should be enhanced and at whose and what cost is the perhaps bigger question of whether enhancement brings happiness, says Richard Matthieu, co-director of the Schechen Buddhist Monastery in Nepal and a molecular geneticist who also serves as an interpreter for the Dalai Lama.

"Happiness can be enhanced but isn't just about genomes," he said. "It's about the mind, which I think is vastly underestimated and underused."

"Happiness can be enhanced but isn't just about genomes."

RICHARD MATTHIEU,
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Gregory Bull AP Photo

ON PATROL: Members of the Mexican Federal Police walk along the shore of the Mexican side of the Rio Grande River yesterday.

Border security needs increase

By Mark Stevenson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY — Mexico insisted yesterday that the men in military-style uniforms who crossed the Rio Grande River and confronted Texas law officers with guns drawn earlier this week were drug smugglers, not soldiers.

Mexican presidential spokesman Ruben Aguilar said the FBI supported that view.

A U.S. law enforcement official confirmed Aguilar's account, saying the FBI and other agencies found no evidence that the men in uniform were Mexican soldiers. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the matter is politically sensitive in both countries.

"These were not Mexican army soldiers, as the U.S. government itself acknowledges," Aguilar said at a news conference. "It is known that these are drug traffickers using military uniforms and they were not even regulation military uniforms."

Aguilar said both countries were investigating the incident.

The incident has raised tensions between the United States and Mexico, which were already

bickering over security problems along their 2,000-mile-long border.

The United States has proposed extending a wall along the border, something Mexico bitterly opposes.

Texas law enforcement officials confronted armed traffickers near the Rio Grande on Monday as what looked like a Mexican military patrol assisted the marijuana smugglers as they escaped back into Mexico.

No shots were fired during Monday's confrontation with at least 10 heavily armed men, U.S. authorities said Tuesday.

The traffickers escaped back into Mexico with much of the marijuana, though they abandoned more than a half-ton of marijuana as they fled and set fire to one of their vehicles.

A Mexican government official said the country has long required its soldiers to avoid an area one mile from the U.S. border unless they are authorized.

He said he did not know exactly when the policy had been implemented, but it was before the Monday incident.

The U.S. Embassy and Mexico's army press office have not commented on the incident.

Two German engineers abducted while in Beiji

Number of foreign abductions continue to grow in Iraq

By Hamid Ahmed
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Kidnappers of two German engineers seized their captives only two days after they arrived in Iraq, gaining access to their compound by pretending to be soldiers, police said yesterday.

The two men arrived Sunday for a brief assignment at a government-owned detergent plant in Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad, German and Iraqi officials said.

Iraqi police initially reported the two were grabbed as they were driving to work Tuesday. But yesterday, two policemen — Lt. Arkan Ali and officer Salih al-Janabi — said the Germans were taken from their compound by armed men who gained access by pretending to be soldiers.

In Berlin, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said there had been no contact with the kidnappers, and government spokesman Thomas Steg said the reason for the abduction was not known.

More than 240 foreigners have been abducted in Iraq since the 2003 fall of Saddam Hussein — either by insurgents or criminal gangs. At least 39 captives

have been killed. Thousands of Iraqis are believed to have fallen victim to kidnappers, many of them for ransom.

The German government has refused to identify the two hostages. But the Leipziger Volkszeitung newspaper identified them as Thomas Nitzschke and Rene Braeunlich. The men work for an engineering firm based in Leipzig.

At least five foreigners have been abducted this month — including two Kenyan communications engineers missing after an ambush in Baghdad on Jan. 18 and American journalist Jill Carroll, who was seized Jan. 7 in the capital. Her translator was killed.

Carroll's kidnappers have threatened to kill the 28-year-old freelancer unless U.S. forces release all Iraqi women in their custody. Iraq's Justice Ministry said six of the nine women in detention would be freed this week, possibly today.

The U.S. command has not confirmed the ministry statement. Lt. Col. Guy Rudisill, spokesman for American detainee command, said the cases of several female detainees had been reviewed and a group of Iraqis would be freed soon. He did not say if they would include women.

Meanwhile, the military said

yesterday that a U.S. Marine was killed by small-arms fire the day before in Karmah, 50 miles west of Baghdad. That raised the number of U.S. military personnel killed since the war began in March 2003 to at least 2,236, according to an Associated Press count.

An Iraqi television journalist, Mahmoud Zaal, was killed Tuesday while filming fighting between U.S. forces and insurgents near the western city of Ramadi, said Thaeer Ahmed, deputy director of Baghdad Television, the station where Zaal worked.

The circumstances of his death were not clear. The U.S. military said seven insurgents died in two separate clashes in Ramadi's city center.

About 60 journalists have been killed in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

An Iraqi television personality said she escaped kidnapping Tuesday by jumping from her second-floor balcony in Baghdad. Nigham Abdul-Zahra suffered multiple fractures but her husband was freed unharmed.

A prominent Sunni Arab cleric, Karim Jassim Mohammed, 39, was shot to death yesterday by police at a checkpoint heading into the northern city of Samarra, said police Capt. Laith

TIME LINE SUMMARY

JAN. 7: American journalist Jill Carroll is seized in Baghdad while at the capital.

JAN. 18: Two Kenyan communications engineers missing after an ambush in Baghdad.

JAN. 24: Iraqi television journalist Mahmoud Zaal was killed in Ramadi while filming fighting between U.S. forces and insurgents.

JAN. 24: A U.S. Marine is killed in a small-arms fire in Karmah, 50 miles west of Baghdad.

JAN. 25: Two German engineers are seized in Beiji while at work by armed men pretending to be soldiers.

JAN. 25: Karim Jassim Mohammed, a Sunni Arab cleric, was shot to death by police at a checkpoint in Samarra.

Mohammed. A policeman also was gunned down in Baghdad's Sadr City, police said.

The violence occurred as Iraqi political parties prepare for talks aimed at forming a government to include Shiites, Sunni Arabs and Kurds following last month's election.

Peace talks resume in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tigers agree to resume peace talks

By Krishan Francis
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KILINOCHCHI, Sri Lanka — Sri Lanka's president and the leader of Tamil Tiger rebels agreed yesterday to resume peace talks, raising hopes the tsunami-ravaged island nation may avoid sliding back into civil war after months of escalating violence.

President Mahinda Rajapakse and reclusive rebel leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran accepted a Norwegian proposal for negotiations to be held in Switzerland, the two sides said after a high-stakes round of shuttle diplomacy by Norwegian envoy Erik Solheim.

"Yes, I have accepted the proposal to go ahead and resume talks," Rajapakse told The Associated Press after meeting with Solheim in the capital, Colombo.

The Norwegian envoy cautioned the talks would not be easy and said no date was set for their resumption, although he expected it to be in mid-February.

"They should not underestimate the difficulties," Solheim said in Colombo, hours after meeting with the reclusive Prabhakaran in the rebel-held city of Kilinochchi and receiving his agreement for the talks. "We have to talk to the Swiss before we can announce a date."

The rebels also promised to stop all acts of violence.

"We also insisted that there should be a congenial condition conducive for peace talks. That is, there should be a cessation of violence. On our part we have pledged that there will not be any acts of violence," the rebels' Web site quoted peace negotiator Anton Balasingham as saying.

The rebels have fought the government since 1983 to create a separate state for ethnic minority Tamils in their north-eastern stronghold, accusing the majority Sinhalese of discrimination.

The 2002 cease-fire halted nearly two decades of civil war that killed 65,000 people. Violence between the two sides has worsened since November's election of Rajapakse, who campaigned on a promise to take a tough line in negotiations with the rebels.



Gemunu Amarasinghe AP Photo

DISPLACED: Tamilians rest at a welfare center in the Kilinochchi town in northern Sri Lanka. Thousands of Tamilians have fled to the area.

The two sides also have traded accusations about the slaying of a pro-rebel lawmaker late last year. And in August, former Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar was assassinated by suspected Tiger gunmen.

In the latest attacks blamed on the rebels, a police officer was wounded when a grenade was thrown at a security bunker in the northern town of Vavuniya early Wednesday, the Defense Ministry said.

Police also were searching for those responsible for a series of explosions Tuesday night in Colombo that caused widespread panic but no known casualties, Deputy Inspector General of Police P. Jayasundara said.

Elsewhere yesterday, gunmen killed two people, believed to be rebel supporters, in the Tamil city of Jaffna, a police officer said.

Solheim said he made a strong appeal to both sides to halt violence and ensure the success of the talks.

"The more cease-fire violations and violence can be reduced prior to the discussions, the more conducive the atmosphere would be for these discussions in Geneva," he added.

At least 81 government security personnel have been killed in attacks blamed on the Tamil Tigers since Dec. 4. The rebels deny involvement. Forty other civilians have been killed by unidentified assailants, with the government and the rebels blaming each other for the killings.

The Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami killed more than 31,000 people and affected 1 million others in this small tropical island of 19 million people off India's southern coast.

Forum against war

PROTEST, FROM PAGE 13

Chavez has funneled million of dollars from booming oil profits into programs for the poor, making him an inspiration for like-minded activists from Canada to Chile.

"He's the one who has most influenced the alternative vision in Latin America," said Oliviero Orjuela, a 36-year-old Colombian activist. "Bush embodies the opposite vision — the commercial vision that sees the world as a business."

This year's social forum is being held in three countries,

including a smaller gathering that ended Monday in Mali and another two months from now in Pakistan.

Some 2,000 events — including seminars, speeches and concerts — will be held across Caracas this week. Well-known speakers include the Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano, the Argentine Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel and former French first lady Danielle Mitterrand.

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MTV's The Real World was at the Sandpiper in 2005 with MJ and Robin as special guests at an Axe/Stuff Magazine Beach Party. They sponsored a model search, keg party, free beer and a swimsuit competition. Alloy Marketing has also brought in model searches.

along with Classmates USA's calendar model search. Spring Breakers can expect plenty more of the same this year with bikini and wet t-shirt/wet jockey shorts contests daily and nightly.

The Sandpiper is never short on big-time entertainment, hosting such acts as Bob Marley's Wailers, Tone Loc and other major acts. Tentatively scheduled for this year are the Black Eyed Peas performing on the beach behind the Sandpiper Beacon during Jay Leno's show. Metro Nightclubs is a Spring Break sponsor giving away swimwear and the Corona Beach Volleyball Tournament is scheduled to take place behind the Sandpiper this year. There will be entertainment all day and all night at the hotel throughout spring break.

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WALK THE LINE (PG-13)	1:20 4:00 7:00 9:40
RUMOR HAS IT... (PG-13)	3:45 9:30
* UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R)	1:30 4:15 7:00 9:30
LAST HOLIDAY (PG-13)	1:30 4:20 7:15 9:50
TRISTAN & ISOLDE (PG-13)	1:40 4:25 7:10 9:55
HOODWINKED (PG)	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:15
HOSTEL (R)	1:05 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
THE RINGER (PG-13)	1:15 7:10
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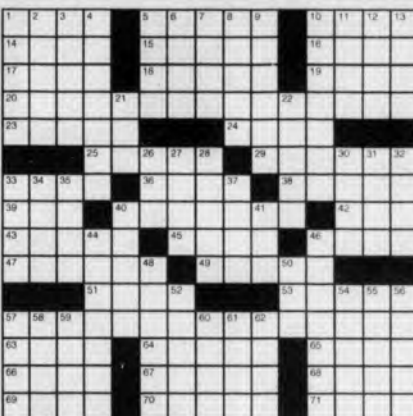
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- 5 Promenade
- 10 Type of school
- 14 Gen. Bradley
- 15 Jeopardy
- 16 Libertine
- 17 Rational
- 18 Ink ingredient
- 19 Actor Holliman
- 20 Start of e.e. cummings quote
- 23 Glossy fabric
- 24 Ham's brother
- 25 Drenches
- 29 Faces the day
- 33 Oven setting
- 36 Palindromic address
- 38 "Giant" ranch name
- 39 Part 2 of quote
- 40 Part 3 of quote
- 42 Part 4 of quote
- 43 Sharply defined
- 45 Norway's largest city

- 46 ___ in the belfry
- 47 Serengeti stalkers
- 49 Gossipmonger
- 51 Exploits
- 53 Totally confused
- 57 End of quote
- 63 Medicinal plant
- 64 Colorful mounts
- 65 Stable dweller
- 66 Leslie Caron film
- 67 Stingless bee
- 68 Met highlight
- 69 Abound
- 70 Favorable responses
- 71 Vichy very

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